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Northern Revolutions:

OR,

The Principal Causes of the Declension and Dissolution of several once flour- ishing **GOthic CONSTITUTIONS** in **EUROPE.**

In a Series of LETTERS

From the *HOST OF TRENCHARD*,
Once a FREE BRITON.

— *What wouldest thou, gracious Figure?*
There's something Rotten in the State
— *of Danemark.*
I'd take the Ghost's Word for a thousand Ducats.
Shakespear's HAMLET.

London:

Printed for M. COOPER, in *Pater-noster-Row.*

M DCC LVII.

[Price Two Shillings.]

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E R R A T A.

Page 2. line 5 for nocturnal, read nocturnal.
30 after as, add ever.
35 after got, add in.
6. line 19 forward, read backward.
7. line 5 for impenitent, read impertinent.
13. line 14 for prefered, read preserved.
27. line 13 for that, read their.
line 37 for was, read were.
42. line 10 for affirm, read confirm.
44. line 31 for they, read these.
72. line 11 for thinking, read unthinking.
122. line 26 for explained, read explain.
128. line 10 for alleviation, read alleviation.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

IN this incredulous Age, when the Generality are argued out of all Belief of the Existence of any Spirit, beyond those of powerful Gin or Brandy, it will probably be questioned, nay perhaps will be openly denied, that the following Letters were dictated to the Editor by a Ghost.

Unfortunately, it is a Point, to which no legal Evidence can be given: Ghosts in general do not chuse to appear to more than one at a Time. And nothing is known to strike more at the Authenticity of Shakespear's ingenious (and no doubt, authentic) History of *Hamlet, Prince of Danemarch*, more than the Ghost of the King being seen to two or three Officers of the Guards, as well as *Hamlet*, all at once.

I own, I believed as little in Ghosts or Apparitions as any Body, till very lately. And, though I have conversed much with People, that have assured themselves or me, that they were gifted with Spirits; I had not Faith enough to assure me that any but the sacred Writers were ever properly fully inspired.

But, I am now come to another Way of thinking, and can demonstrate, that, notwithstanding what interested People industriously spread to the contrary, Spirits or Ghosts do appear to a few chosen, intellectual Eyes, and may be seen by any Persons duly qualified. In that Number, I thank the Moon and Stars,

am I. There is not a Day of my Life, that I do not hold most intimate, most familiar Converse with the Ghosts of some of the most famed Spirits, that ever did Honour to this enlightened Isle. I am in no high Station in this Land; yet, Spight to my contemned Obscurity, I often breakfast w th *Edward II*; dine with *Harry V*, and sup with good Old *Queen Bess*. And even the Spirits of the defunct Ministers of these world-withdrawn Potentates, laying aside the more than regal Pride of their Places, do not disdain to Chat a little with me. *Hampden* often meets me in my Cloiet, and sometimes, walks with me unseen, in the most crowded Assemblies. *Cromwell*, though he never intrudes till *Hampden* is gone, gives me some Minutes of his Company every Day. His sulen Brow, frequent mention of Dunkirk and surly Menaces against France and most against French Englishmen, could not fail of disgusting the placid Spirits of this Age of Pleasantry. How often does *Sidney*'s guardian Spirit and martyred *Russell* wrest me fr m the World and fill my admiring Soul with Joys unknown to such as hold not frequent Converse with such patriot Spirits. I could name many more that often honour me with Visits. Nay more, I could, and in due Time perhaps may, shew fit Persons, if such may be found, how they may attain to the like Honours from those immortal Sages. I will not promise to shew the Multitude, how the Spirit of *Oliver* may again be brought in burnished Steel to visit his well-loved, native Land: This angry Spirit may not perhaps be so easily layed, when

once

once disturbed. But, let me see the Man, who next to his God, loves his Country ; who never of cool Purpose or Deliberation did public or private Wrong ; who despises all private Regards, that come in Competition with the public Good ; and whose great Ambition is to be found the noblest Work of God, that rarest Wonder of our Age, an honest Man. Let him come forth and he shall forthwith behold and converse with the greatest and best Spirits of the departed Heroes and blessed Saints, that ever were Ornaments to this Land.

But, here let me stop ; lest my Secret should fall into vulgar Hands, who not conceiving may abuse it. I shall then only tell my Reader, that having by an Art, not yet to be communicated to the Public, found Access to these glorious Spirits, which have not yet given up their favourite Charges of Guardians to our Isle ; upon consulting them seriously and zealously to learn how their good Purposes may yet be by Man promoted, *Trenchard* was appointed by a grand Council of British Spirits to reveal to me some historical Facts relative to the Affairs of Europe, which he had not Time to impart to the World in the Days of the Flesh.

This most reverend Spirit, for many Nights past appears to me in a purple Robe spangled with the most brilliant Diamonds. His Head is covered with an Helmet, which dazzles with most resplendent Gems. His manly Breast is inclosed in a Cuirass of polished Steel. On his left Arm, he holds the dreadful *Ægis* ; while his right Hand by turns presents the Spear of Britain's

tain's Genius, and an Heaven-lighted Torch, whose Light dispels the darkest Clouds of Error and Superstition, and rouses the rational Soul to noblest Actions. In his benign Countenance Cheerfulness inthroned in Wisdom sat Majestic. Thou mortal, said the awful Shade, ' who thus
 ' quitest the alluring Gaieties of Life in thine
 ' Age more sought, than any the World has
 ' known before, and preferest the good of Man-
 ' kind and thy Country's Weal, to thine own
 ' Ease and Peace on Earth ; take up thy Pen ; set
 ' down the Truths thou hast from us received ;
 ' and in due Time impart them to the World.
 ' If they have Ears they well hear. If under-
 ' standings, they will digest. Thy Task thus
 ' finished, they have no more to hope; bid
 ' them farewell, and come, join those Spirits,
 ' in whose Alliance, thou shalt true Comfort
 ' find at last.'

What Sceptic could withstand this Charge? I obeyed the guardian Vision. He cannot take it ill, that I give these Papers, his venerable Name. Whoever doubts the Fact, may go andask *Trenchard*. If he disowns them there is no Faith, no Truth in Visions, and the sensible Reader may shake Hands with the worldly Author, who pleased himself with the Office of *Emanuensis* to *Trenchard's* Ghost.

I think I hear some of the deep-red, long-headed Politicians of our Age enquire, ' who is
 ' this *Trenchard*? ' Well asked : In Truth a very odd sort of a Fellow, though he be dead. A Man whose general Knowledge made him the best Patron of Men of Science ; whose love for Virtue,
 for

for Liberty and his Country made him write or dictate the best Parts of *Cato's Letters*, and whose Zeal for pure, practical Religion made him laugh out of Countenance all the Austerities, Fopperies and Superstitions, with which foolish or knavish Men had disfigured and disgraced it ; in his incomparable independant Whig. And what is still more strange, and to most incredible, who condescended to accept of the most lucrative Office in the State, provided the Sallary of that and others were reduced from some Thousands to a few hundred Pounds a Year ; enough to pay Men qualified, but not to tempt the disqualified to engage in such Offices ; and who would not submit to accept any Employment, but upon these Terms, purely to serve his Country.

Let no Man, who is well bred enough to dislike this Character, venture to meet his Ghost here or hereafter.

L E T T E R S

Relating to the

CAUSES of the Destruction of the
Free Governments of NORDWEG and
DANEMARCH.

LETTER I.

Relating to the Revolutions of Governments in Nordweg and Danemarch.

WHILE I found my wise Countrymen were taken up and divided into zealous Parties, each, with becoming Fury, contending for or against a *Gipsey* or a *Canning*; while our Coffe-house Sages were engaged in setting up some Player for the Standard of Beauty, Dress, Elocution and Oratory, and warmly harangued to shew only, which acted most like himself; while our fair, regardless of Devotion, Love, or Dress, seemed contented with hurting themselves alone, at Cards; and puny Beaux with aping cocknies joined to suppress a Dance; while our Merchants in spite to Laws, gamed under the Colour of Insurance for Minorca; and French Dogs or Italian b—s divided Persons of Quality and refined Taste; while these like important Matters engaged our wise Public, I lay by, wrapt

B up

up in silent Admiration, glad to find the Multitude, like me, disdain to throw away a serious Thought on their Country, or their precious selves.

But finding the Tables so far changed, that all our nocturnal Assemblies and Ridottos al fresco ; all our Billiard-tables and Stews ; all our pipings, singings, ballancings, tumblings, dancings, &c. &c &c. are no longer sufficient to keep us in our gay, unthinking Mood, since the Magistrates have not thought fit to find out some adequate Amusements ; and people now begin to talk so seriously of important Subjects, as may give room to dread many Self murders about the first full Moon in November ; I think it time to stand forth and strive to amuse them with some Trifles, that may happily divert their Thoughts from home.

And here I cannot help mourning the Loss the Public sustains by the Death, or Silence of our late Groupe of Novel writers ! Why should one Age produce the inimitable *Joseph Andrews*, *Tom Jones*, *Pamela*, *Peregrine Pickle*, *Clarissa*, &c. and not now leave one Writer to save his Country to make the World laugh, or weep, at foreign Trifles ? What is become of the Man that promised a Plan for an endless Romance ? Or is there not one more Courtesan of Quality to furnish out another Tale of Bawdry, to amuse the Public, and save a poor Scribe from mistaking his Talents and turning Critic from Starving and Damnation ?

Had these lived, our Places of public Resort might have been as gay and amusing, as instructing as even Scandal and trifles might destroy Reputations and kill time ; but they might prevent gloomy Moments, and spare some Lives. Courtiers would not frighten themselves, from enjoying the full Emoluments of Places got a manner unheard of, in Britain, by bartering Consciences, with the disagreeable Sound of *French Invasions*. Citizens would not be heard to grumble in their Beer and Smoak, our *Italian* and *Turkish Trades* are

are lost with Minorca. *Hang B—g! Change the A——y! Damn the M——y!* Our Patriots had then been too well diverted to complain of *Taxes, foreign Troops*, or cry out for a *Militia-bill*. Nor would the unthinking *FREEHOLDERS* of *Ireland* insult our Administration as well as their own, with daring to propose to arm, even at their own Expence, to the number of upwards of seventy thousand, and offering to serve in *Defence* of this Country as well as their own ; when the *Wisdom* of the *Legislature* had already declared that *foreign Mercenaries* were a safer Guard to us than a *national Militia*. It can be no small *Comfort* to the strange Gentlemen, who have been so kind as to come a great way to eat *Beef and Pudding* in *Defence* of our *Constitution*, and to pay their *Princes Debts* ; to find that the *Lords Justices of Ireland* were too wise to permit these officious *Freeholders* to arm themselves for the *Defence* of their *Country*, being determined to let them see the *Necessity* of getting *foreign Troops* for that *Purpose* in *Ireland* as well as here.

In hopes to deter my Countrymen from so disagreeable, so useless a Task, as looking seriously into any thing relating to the Public ; in the Dearth of Amusements that exposes them to this Folly, I purpose to offer some Means to divert them ; and since they have unfortunately turned their Heads to Politics, more than is meet of late ; let them attend me through some of the cold neighbouring Countries by whose Revolutions they may be amused if not instructed, as well as by seeing a man of six Feet high going into a quart Bottle, or a Monster jumping down his own Throat.

Swedeland, Nordweg, and Danemarch, were once under one General Gothic Government, which suffered from time to time a great Variety of Changes ; the Power of every constituent Part rising or falling according to the accidental Force or Weakness of the

Monarchy, Aristocracy, or Democracy ; and sometimes the whole has been reduced to the most wretched Anarchy.

In the various Contests betwixt the different Members of the State, the Territories were divided, and each Division, in time, set up a particular Government, always keeping close Analogy to the Mother Stock.

It is unnecessary to my Purpose, and useless to the Reader, to spend Time in dry Chronology, in specifying the particular Points of Time in which these Divisions were made. Let it suffice, that in each of the Countries mentioned, a separate and independant Form of Government was set up ; and Nordweg and Danemarch no more acknowledged the Sovereignty of Swedeland ; but each become a distinct free State, governed like Swedeland, by an elective King, Nobles, Clergy, and Commons, which constituted the States, Diet, or Parliament of each Country.

How Nordweg was first reduced to Slavery, and how Danemarch, soon after, necessarily shared the same Fate, and Swedeland lately narrowly, and for a while, escaped it, may be set forth in the Sequel, if the Public be not otherwise better amused.

LETTER II.

THE Historians of these three Countries most warmly and verbosely contend for the Antiquity and Dignity of their respective Nations. We shall keep clear of their Disputes, as well as of their fabulous Legends, and confine our present Considerations to the most true and probable Part of these obscure Histories. Tho' it is more than probable this may disgust, if not quite discourage, a certain Class of Readers, who might receive equal Instruction, and more pleasing Amusement, from the Histories of the Feats of Lapland Witches, than from those of the Revolutions of Northern States. Yea, I have reason to fear, this

Paper

Paper will meet with few or no Readers; because it has not enough the Air of a Romance, and promises but little of the marvellous.

I remember, when Lima, in America, was overwhelmed by an Earthquake; if we in Britain did not actually feel the Shock, we felt it in effect: our news papers and magazines were filled with tragic, frightful Stories of such Convulsions in different Parts of the Globe, and every body was more or less involved in the Calamities of that overthrown City. I shall say nothing of the Ravings of a Madman, who prophesied the like Disaster to London, making all our pious Christians fly out of Town, on that portentous Day, to avoid the dreadful Catastrophe.

If we suffered much Disturbance by the fate of Lima, we were infinitely more distressed and alarmed at the horrid Earthquake at Portugal. We mourned the Losses of our own Merchants there; we pitied all the Sufferers; but most of all the sacred Person of the King, from the first Merchant in Europe, reduced to the Want of a dwelling-place, of Raiment and of Food! We felt his Necessities, and speedily relieved them. The horrors came now nearer home; we heard of many more Earthquakes. Nay, we felt, or imagined we felt them, in different Parts of England. The Motions of Boats upon the Waters gave some, of exquisite Sensibility and lively Imaginations, the Vapours, and were called Earthquakes; and the Noise and Motions of Carts and Coaches in the Night terrified all, but the less sensible Drivers. What restless Nights, what Anxieties, what Pannics, what Devotion, were not universally occasioned by these natural Motions in distant Parts of the Earth? Have these Perturbations been allayed? — Most compleatly. But, how? We made perfect Oblation for all our past Sins by one Day's fasting and going to Church; and since, drowned all Care and Thought betwixt Drury Lane and

Covent-garden, Vauxhall, Ranelagh, and Sadler's-wells.

What happy Constitutions can modern Britons boast? Frightened, shocked by remote Evils! calmed and comforted with present Trifles! A few Houses thrown down by subterranean or meteoric Fire, in any distant Region, can never fail of moving deep Distress, for a while! But free States may be overturned; limited Magistrates may become Tyrants, and Free-men be made Slaves, on every side of us; who is moved at it? Who has Attention to read the melancholy Account?—hardly one!

The late Lord Molesworth, I beg his Pardon, I mean Mr Molesworth, for he was not then a Peer, told us how Denmark, once as free a State as any I have described, was, within the Compass of four Days, reduced to an hereditary, absolute Tyranny. The noble Historian did not look forward and learn the Cause; a Series of illicit and corrupt Administration of many Years standing; on which, if any body will read it, I shall endeavour to throw some light.

But, why should I expect it? — This Revolution, more dreadful to us than the overwhelming the entire petty State of Denmark in the Sea, or the converting it to a Volcano, gave not the least Alarm, the least Disturbance in England; and I will venture to say, that the History of *Roderick Random*, or the Trial of *Elizabeth Canning*, are now to be found in many more Hands here, than this Account of the Subversion of the Government of a neighbouring State, not long since as free as ours.

But, if we come to the present Times, who among us has lost a Night's Rest, or a Meal's Meat, for the curious Court Plot for overturning the civil Constitution of Sweden, which, by some unlucky Accident, miscarried the other day? Why so unconcerned? The good, the pious King wept bitterly, and the gentle gracious Queen swooned, and well nigh died,

at the tremendous Abortion. Oh! moving Scene! The loss of Lisbon did not cost the Court of Portugal so much: Yet we fasted once, and mourned, and were frighted a few Days for their Loss! If one impenitent Corporal, a Cobler by Trade, had, by any pious Hand, been stabbed or strangled; had a few fatal Hours silently revolved, the righteous King of Sweden, by making himself instead of an electivē, limited Monarch, a despotic Tyrant, with a divine hereditary Right; had freed his People of the intolerable Burden of Assemblies of the States, Diets, Senates, or Parliaments, of course of numbers of Placemen and Pensioners, and disburthened them as effectually of all Notions of Freedom and Rights. as his worthy Brother of Denmark had before him thus eased his Vassals. Can we hear this unmoved? No sure; who is not sorry for the Disappointment of the Lord's anointed? and of his sweet Royal Consort? I dare say, to our Honour and Happiness be it spoken! more among us are grieved at the premature Discovery of the Plot, than shocked at the Attempt. To such a comfortable Pitch of Inattention and Insensibility, to such a total Extinction of the public Spirit, of which our ancestors idly boasted. are we, their wiser Progeny, arrived!

Come on then, ye wavering Spirits, who are not so foolish as to spend your Lives in thinking of any serious Matters that concern your Neighbours, your Posterity, or yourselves; I will now and then help you to a northern Tale, or a Fragment of one, quite remote from all your narrow Concerns, which after employing your Eyes for half an Hour in the morning, without burdening your Intellects, may dispose you, like any of your favourite Novels, to laugh or to weep, perhaps to sleep for a while; and then may be applied to some other useful Purpose. Farewel!

Yours, &c.

LETTER III.

A fragment of Northern History, glancing at the Causes of the Downfall of Danemarch.

HOUEVER the Northern States of Nordweg and Danemarch may contend for Antiquity and Superiority ; it is certain the Part most neglected and despised at this day, was so far from being contemptible in early Ages, that if the Estimate be made from Power and Conquest, as is generally the case, few Nations will be found to have been so considerable, in her Time, in Europe, as Nordweg, before she became unhappily connected with her once ungrateful, unnatural Sister, and since her haughty Mistress, Danemarch.

There are few Countries on our western Continent, that have not felt and suffered under the Power of Nordweg. There is great Reason to judge, that she had the first Naval Power in Europe : By which she became not only the Terror of her Neighbours upon that Element, but often invaded their Coasts, pillaged the Country, or planted Colonies in it, as seemed best to these conquering Lords. It is probable that Ireland was peopled from this Scythian Hive. She gave Princes to France, and Kings to Britain. But no more of this ; Wise Men will keep clear of Home, for Reasons too obvious to be pointed out here.

If we should attempt to trace out the Origin of Nordweg, and to set forth the long Catalogue of Kings, which their Historians enumerate, or their Bards have sung ; I should surely tire myself, if not my Reader, and but a little, if at all, advance my Purpose.

I shall only observe, that since their Records were tolerably well kept, which has been only since their Conver-

Conversion to Christianity, about the latter End of the Tenth Century; their best Historians enumerate about Twenty-one Kings, with some Anarchies, pointed out as Interregna, before they were by a fatal Marriage joined and subjected to the Crown of Danemarch.

The List of the Kings of Nordweg, that stand fairly recorded in the Annals of that ill fated Country, begin about the Year 976 and end with Haquin, about 1375.

Haquin was the only surviving Son of Olaus III. King of Nordweg. In his Reign, Waldimir III. died, leaving the only Issue of his Race, Margaret, to inherit the Crown, or be deposed, at the Option of the States; who, after some Pauses and Deliberations, concluded, that if a Match between Margaret and Haquin of Nordweg, originally of the same Stock, could be brought about, they would elect him and her King and Queen, and agree to call the worthiest Person of their Issue to succeed to the Throne.

The poor Nordwegians, not discerning the Consequence of this Alliance, were in general quite passive; while others, of seeming greater penetration, appeared pleased with the Match; never thinking that Nordweg would thereby become in Time an Appendage of Danemarch; but judging that Danemarch might be a considerable Acquisition to the Strength and Consequence of Nordweg.

See the Effects of this ill-judged Alliance! Nordweg, before this Time, was, if not the richest, one of the freest and happiest States, and perhaps, one of the most formidable Powers in Europe, to her Neighbours.

The Country was divided into five Provinces or Prefectures with proper Magistrates to govern them; all subject to a King, who was but one and the first of the five Estates, that constituted the Diet or Grand Council of the Kingdom; and when they were not
assem-

assembled, he was the General and Chief Commander of their Land and Naval Forces, and the Grand Executioner of their Laws; under the Direction of the Diet.

The Diet consisted of the Nobility of the Realm, the Deputies of the Clergy, the Burghers or Deputies of the Cities and Towns, and the Commonalty or Representatives of the Peasants; a Majority of each of which was necessary to make or repeal a Law, or to carry any Question in the Assembly of the States, General Council, or Diet, as it is indifferently called by most Historians.

These four States, in Conjunction with the King, made, amended, altered and abrogated Statutes; elected the King, giving Preference to the next of Kin of the Royal Family, till that became extinct; and then made a new Choice. These constantly watched over the Conduct of the King, and restrained or directed it, as they judged most consonant to the Laws and consistent with the Good of the States; to which, if they found any Prince run counter, they forthwith deposed him, and chose another.

But, as the Diet could not sit constantly, they appointed a Senate; a smaller Number of the principal Members of the Diet in Point of Understanding and Integrity, and whose Fortunes or Stations enabled them to attend the King, to be a Council to direct his Political Conduct, and even to judge of his public Transactions, and correct or report them to the States General or Diet.

The King then presided in their Councils, but never ruled or controled them. He commanded their Armies and their Navy, and appointed their respective Generals, Admirals, and other Officers; in which, however, he was liable to be checked by the Senate or Diet, without whose Concurrence, he could not declare War or conclude a Peace. He directed the Coinage and Currency of Money; but that

that once done, could not be altered without the joint Authority of the Diet.

The King also had a Right to appoint all the great Officers of the Realm. But this is said by some to have arisen only by Usurpation ; all great Offices being originally filled by the States, with the Concurrence of the King, not otherwise. As such a Power is inconsistent with the Principles of the Government ; it may be justly looked upon only as an Usurpation, and what in Process of Time contributed to the Destruction of the State.

The great Officers of the State, sometimes also called Officers of the Crown, from the like Usurpation sometimes prevailing, were,

1. The Marshal of the Dyt, who like our Chancellor, presided in the House of the Nobles ; an Officer the next in Honour and Dignity to the Crown, while the Diet sat ; during the Receis, giving Place to

2. The High or Chief Justice ; who, in the King's Absence, was his Vicegerent, especially in the Administration of Justice. He presided in the Supreme Court of Judicature, which consisted of the Chief of the Nobles and Senators ; unless the King sat there in Person ; which he might do, when the Crown or any of his Officers or Favourites, were not Parties. To him the Chief Justice then became but an Assessor.

3. The High Constable, who was intrusted with regulating the Conduct and Discipline of the Army in Times of Peace, presiding in all great Councils of War, Courts Martial, &c.

4. The High Chancellor was the principal Officer for Administiring Justice under the Crown, or dispensing the regal Office, by dispatching all public Affairs, keeping the Great Seal, &c.

5. The High Admiral, who was intrusted with the immediate Care and Management of the Fleet, and

and executing the Orders of the Crown or State in Naval Matters. He presided in all Naval Councils and Courts Martial.

6. The High Treasurer, who was intrusted with keeping the Publick Funds, presided in the Chamber of Accounts, somewhat like our Exchequer ; paid the Civil and Military Lists, and was accountable for his Conduct to the Diet alone.

7. The Primate, the Archbishop of Bergen, was to be considered as one of the great Officers of the State ; though he had none other Civil Employment, than that of presiding in the Assembly of the Clergy, which made the third Estate of the Nation.

8. The Burgomaster of Bergen, or Opslo, where ever the Diet sat, was to be enumerated with these ; for he was President of the House of Burgesses : And.

9. The President or Speaker of the House of Commonalty or Paifants, by them chosen from among themselves. These during the Session took Place in this order after the Marshal.

Besides these, there were several inferior Officers and Courts of Judicature in all Cities and considerable Towns, in all Counties or smaller Divisions of the Counties, with an Appeal to the chief Provincial Court, whose Officers and Judges were chosen by the Inhabitants of the several Districts, subject to the Approbation of the Diet. And for the greater Security of Property, from these, an Appeal to lay to the supreme Court of Judicature at Bergen or Opslo.

This is a just Epitome of the State of Norweg, taking it upon a Medium : For, at some irregular Times, it must be confessed, Anarchy arose from the Predominancy of the Power of some or other unruly Members of the State. But when Feuds subsided, and Matter were legally settled, this was the lawful Establishment and sacred Constitution of the Realm.

The States all to the Nobles, were annually elected, tho' it often happened, that many of the same

same Members were elected over every Year of their Lives. And as there were but few Places and still fewer Pensioners about the Court ; there was no Exception to the Election of any but Officers of the Army and Navy into the Diet

I hope it can be no offence to any Body, Comparisons being always avoided, to applaud this ancient Gothic Form of Government. It is said by the Swedes, who have nearly retain'd it, to have taken Rise with, and been derived from them. This shews their Applause of it. After the late Shock, the bungled Conspiracy, let us see how long they will hold it.

Till the Year 1660, the Danes preferred this Form of Goverment, at home, however they thought fit to violate it in Nordweg : Which shews, 'while that People retained any Sense of Freedom, this equal, popular Government suited their Tempers.

Some of the essentials of this Kind of Commonwealth are still kept up in Poland, as far as intruding Military Force, that Bane to Peace and Freedom, will admit.

This Form of Government the Franks bore with them into Gaul, and planted all over that extended State ; where it flourished with very little Alteration, till overturned by the Intrigues of foreign Courtefans and Mercenary Soldiers, between the Reigns of Lewis the XI. and the XV.

And to our unspeakable Comfort, the Essentials of this form of Government were introduced and established by some or other of the invading Northerlings of Nordweg, Danemarch, Saxony or Normandy, here in Britain, where, as in a more favourable Clime, they have grown up and flourished in more exquisite Perfection than in any other Corner of the Earth ; and where I hope, without Offence to our Betters, they will, regardless of the Vicissitudes of Seasons, flourish to the End of Time. But let it be

be remembered I keep clear of home. Our Affairs are happily committed to wiser Heads, and none dare doubt the Integrity of their Hearts. Let me only inculcate, that for Ages past, our sage Counsellors did not despise the Stock from which their Polity was drawn. And how strictly they attend to their own, the present happy and great State of our National Concerns at home and abroad, removes far beyond the Reach of Doubt.

Was Nordweg once the happy, free Country we have pointed out? Was such the Policy of Denmark? And did Swedeland enjoy the like Blessings? None can be ignorant of the Truth of the Affirmative. What is their present State? Abject Slavery of the worst Kind in Europe has fallen to the Lot of the first and second, and how long the third will keep clear of it, Heaven alone can tell. Perhaps, though some time under the Influence of French Modes and Intrigues of Government, the Measure of their Iniquity is not yet filled.

Methinks, I hear some few inquisitive Readers ask how came these horrid Changes in these Northern States? No Nation ever thought the Countries worth the invading? I shall answer him, they had that, to which we happy Britons are Strangers, home-bred, innate Vice, Depravity and Corruption, the Consequences of Riches and Luxury, enough to make the Multitude in Time lose Sight of every Principle of Virtue and good Policy; so that without the Aid or Interposition of any foreign Force, without one mercenary Soldier, from any other State, the Danes were able, with a little Court Craft and some Industry, to overturn the free Government of Nordweg first; and when that was completely effected, in less than four Days the same shameless People put on Yokes and Fetters on their own Necks and Limbs, and rivetted them so effectually with their own Hands, while yet they could use them, that they were never able to shake

shake them off to this Day, but have since hung like Criminals in Gibbets, as Examples to the other States of Europe.

Thank the Stars ! We stand in need of no such Warning ! Our Withers are unwrung ! We must ever exult, when we find that we stand happy and secure in our own Integrity ; that Corruption could never raise her hated Head in any Election or other Part of our Administration ; that we are secure in the Wisdom and Virtue of our Councils, which cause a free Dispensation of Law and Justice with Mercy to be equally extended to the remotest Parts of our Dominions. And when our Enemies must soon with us confess the invincible Fortitude of our domestic and confederate Forces by Land and Sea. On these Matters, no Man that is not concerned, has Room to throw away a Word or a Thought. Away with them then ! and let us examine the *something rotten in the State* — — — of Danemarch ; first permitting me to comfort myself if not amuse you, with an Anecdote in the Life of one of our Kings ; which will hardly appear impertinent, to every Body.

When Mr. Molesworth, that shining Ornament to his Country, laid open the dismal History of fallen Danemarch, emphatically, but not deeply enough ; it was translated into the Languages of all the Countries of Europe that retained their Freedom. A German Translation soon got into Danemarch, and so galled that unhappy People, now recently, fatally, feeling the Difference between Freedom and Vassalage, that it rendered the Court so hateful, and so raked up the Wounds and Bruises of the newly enslaved Subjects, that, had any of the ancient Spirit of Freedom subsisted, it must have raised an Insurrection.

But this Performance galled the King more than it did any of his Subjects : Many of them bore their Stripes and Bonds well, very well, and had acquired such

such a Degree of Callosity, as extinguished all Sensibility. But he, who before held his Sceptre and his Crown by and for the people, derived his Power and Majesty from, and held it but in trust for, them ; now, as by Inspiration, saw himself *the Lords anointed*, a monarch by the Grace of God with an *indefeasible, hereditary Right*, which was confessed as well *Divine*, as *Military*, to *tyrannise*. He, no doubt, thought all Kings despicable, that were not as despotic as he : And probably, by the Help of a few active Flatterers, Weeds that grow rampant about every Court, was made to think himself more of a God than a Man.

It is hardly to be imagined, that this up *skip* Despot could bear an Insult from a mere Man, which, compared to Majesty, could not be estimated above a Brute. And being the more incensed against the Man, who sharply exposed his Majesty's lately assumed Divinity, and threatened to disturb his Despotism, he could not help giving some Vent to his Choler, and, by his Ambassador, demanding Satisfaction for the Injury offered him by one of the British Subjects, which the Danish Tyrant looked upon as such Vassals, as he had lately made his own People.

The King of Britain received the Danish Ambassador with due Respect ; heard his Remonstrance against Mr. Molesworth with great Attention ; and expressed his Concern, that any of the British Subjects should offer any Offence to the King or Subjects of Danemarch : and could not help promising do all in his Power to satisfy . offended Majesty.

Nothing being likely to be done in this mighty Matter, the Ambassador, or perhaps his Master, grew more importunate, and seemed to blame our King for not more speedily inflicting some violent, arbitrary Punishment, beyond his Power. Upon this,

this, our King confessed himself at some Loss, and desired to know what Satisfaction his good Brother demanded ? To which the Ambassador replied , ‘ Sir, the King my Master, however injured, is too respectful to your Majesty, to prescribe any Method of punishing your offending Subjects. But, if one of his had offended any Monarch, especially your Majesty, in such a Manner as one of yours has done ; the King would straitway order him to be confined for Life in a Dungeon, where he should never breathe fresh Air, see the Light of Heaven, or hear a human Voice ’.

Whereupon our King quickly rejoined, ‘ Good Sir, speak softly, and keep this intirely to yourself : For, if it should come to Mr. Molesworth’s Ears, in Spite of all I can do to the contrary, he will certainly put it into the next Edition of his Book.’ Thus the Ambassador of a petulant, Mushroom Tyrant, was silenced by the true Spirit of a British King. See the Difference between a wild, lawless Tyrant, and a just King governing by Laws made by a wise and free People, by the Counsels of his political Children ! But away with odious Comparisons, and to the Purpose.

Till my next leisure Hour, Farewell!

YOURS, &c.

LETTER IV.

NO sooner had Haquin wedded the Daughter of Danemarch, and got himself settled on that Throne, than he began to slight his antient Kingdom, removed his Court, and settled his Residence entirely in his new Kingdom ; judging it sufficient to govern his old Realm by a Viceroy or Substitute.

For the greatest Part of the Reign of this King and Queen, the Jealousies of the duped Nordwegians were prevented from rising to any visible Extremes,

by keeping up the Forms of a Court at Bergen, and sending one of the most respectable and powerful of the Nobility, and sometimes one of the Royal Family, to convoke the Dyets and to hold the Reins of Government in that nearly abandoned Kingdom.

But these gnawing discontents of the Nordwegians were calmed, or rather suppressed for a while, by the Death of Haquin, who was a proud Man, of an haughty, imperious and fiery Spirit, which the Wisdom of his Queen was barely able to moderate.

Upon this King's Death, his Son, Olaus VI. a well disposed, but weakly Youth, was called to the Throne of Danemarch, and, for Want of knowing a fitter or a more likely to protect them, he was soon after acknowledged as their King by the Nordwegians; not without some Murmurings of Discontent against the Issue of a King who had abandoned them, and the Queen of a People who looked upon their Kingdom with so evil an Eye as the Danes.

But knowing no better Expedient, they submitted. They were very agreeably disappointed in their Apprehensions: For the young King was entirely governed by the Counsels of his Mother, which were equally wise and just. They had a Viceroy, once in a Year, in peaceable Times; and had their Dyet annually convoked. But in Wars and Troubles, a Viceroy was seldom sent, and then a Stranger was appointed, who made but a short Residence among them; which prevented their Animosities subsiding.

Olaus, being Grandson of Magnus Samech, late King of Swedeland, he demanded that Crown, which was sometimes permitted to descend in a Kind of hereditary Succession, as all the Northern Crowns on some Occasions were: But this hopeful King's premature Death prevented his seeing his Demands fulfilled, as they were in some Measure in his Mother.

As I desire to accommodate myself to the Capacities of my Readers, of which, under the Rose, I have not the highest Opinion ; I wish I knew some Means of conveying to them, just Ideas of a Character which I fear is beyond the Conceptions of the ordinary Politic-mongers of the Age.

Most of you have read, at least the News-Paper Accounts of that illustrious Heroine, and at present faithful Friend and Ally of our Country, whose House, for its many conspicuous Virtues, particularly in preserving the Freedom of the Elections of Emperors of Germany and Kings of the Romans, in moderating the Rigour of ecclesiastical Tyranny, and propagating and protecting the Protestant Religion, and in supporting a Branch of the Royal Family of Britain in its just and lawful Title to a Principality and Electorate in the Holy Roman Empire, if not to a Kingdom ; and for other like Excellencies, has been for Ages supported at the Expence of many Thousands of Lives and several Millions of British Pounds. In searching the same Legends, you have read of the present chaste and pacific Empress of Russia, or perhaps of the late magnanimous Czarina : Put all their Sense and all their Virtues together ; they could convey but a faint Idea of Margaret of Danemarch.

Some of you may possibly remember, or have heard your Grannums talk of, her, who, for a while raised the Glory of her Country, and shook the neighbouring Tyrant's Throne, before false Counsellors in her Decline of Health, diminished the Lustre of her Reign, our Royal Anne ; but even here, the Comparison will hardly hold.

Are there any among you who know any Thing of the Golden Days of that Paragon of good Princes, the Wise, the Learned, the Magnanimous, the Public-spirited, the Patriot, the Great, the good Queen Elizabeth ; she, who gave every just Encouragement to good Sense, Learning, Valour, Arts, Sciences,

and Commerce; who paid due regard to Merit in the humblest Station; promoted the Virtuous and Wise, regardless of their Ranks and Fortunes; who bestowed the public Employments upon Men that were capable of discharging the Trust, rather than on Courtiers that wanted them; who by the Prudence and Justice of her Conduct, suppressed and frustrated Plots at Home; and by her Wisdom and Fortitude, dissolved Conspiracies of the most powerful States about her against her and her People; she, whose Frown struck Terror into more than Half the Globe, while she secured the Peace and Freedom, the Greatness of her own Subjects, so as to make them envied by the Rest of Mankind? If to this glorious Character you add the best Part of that of Semiramis, Queen of Assyria, without any of her Faults, you may form an Idea of our Heroine.

Upon the Death of her Son Olaus, the Danes and Nordwegians chose Margaret for their Queen. She took her Sister's Grandson, Erick, called Pomeran, from his Country, to be her Associate in the Government. She waged War against the Swedes, defeated them, and took their King, Albert, Prisoner; soon after which, the States of Swedeland declared for Margaret, and chose her their Queen.

She detained the conquered King with his Son, Prisoners, till they formally and solemnly renounced all Pretensions to the Throne of Swedeland. Upon which, she got Erick chosen King in his Place.

All this had not redounded much to the Honour of this Queen, in the Estimation of cool Heads, had she not visibly taken all these Pains for the manifest Interests of the Northern Kingdoms, without any Tincture of private Views: This is evident from her causing a general Assembly of the States of Swedeland, Danemarch, and Nordweg to meet at Calmar, in the Year 1395, where, by the persuasive Force of her Wisdom and Eloquence, she brought the States

States readily to agree to a Scheme of Polity, which she had framed, calculated upon the wholesome Principles of the antient Polity of the three Kingdoms, which she now revived for the common Good of them all.

In order to unite these three Kingdoms effectually, and prevent the Bloodshed and Desolation, which continual Struggles for their several Crowns, upon the Death of almost every Prince occasioned; this wise and worthy Queen now proposed, that the three Kingdoms should be, to all Intents and Purposes, united under one common Head, constituting but one elective Monarchy; that, upon the Demise of the reigning Prince, or during his Lifetime, by his Consent, the Successor should be elected and declared, by the joint, equal Suffrages of the States, of the three Nations in Diet assembled; that each Kingdom should be governed by it's own Laws and Customs, defended by it's own Troops, by whom alone all the Fortresses should be garrisoned, and that no Foreign Soldiers or armed Men, even from any one of the united Kingdoms, should upon any Pretence enter the other, without the general Consent of the States; that no Stranger should be ennobled, or preferred to any civil or military Employment, or to any ecclesiastical Benefice, and that in each Kingdom, it's own Natives, being found equal in Merit to those of the others, should always be preferred; and that the General Diet should be composed of the States of the three Kingdoms in equal Numbers, and should for the future assemble once every Year on a Stated Day at Helmstadt, in the Province of Halland, and as often as the Emergencies of the State should require, upon the King's Summons.

Thus Margaret immortalised herself, by contriving that Union, which bore the Name of Calmar, where the States freely, joyously, thankfully gave it their Solemn Sanction; the good Effects of which nothing

but the Perverseness of human Nature could obstruct.

The heroic Queen, now pleased with the happy Prospect, she had thus provided for the People, resigned, with greater Pleasure than she had ascended the Throne, and soon after, about the Year 1396, had the additional Satisfaction of seeing a grateful, free People chuse her Kinsman and Coadjutor, Erick, her Successor. She lived retired the Remainder of her Life; and changed it for Immortality in the Year 1412.

Erick gives us fatal Proof of the sad Uncertainty of human Affairs. He soon forgot or despised the Union of Calmar, which alone entitled him to a Crown; he governed by his Passions, without any Regard to Law, and soon rendered the wise Provisions of the Great Queen Margaret useless.

He despised all his Subjects, and held them in great Contempt, making some despicable Foreigners his Minions and chief Confidents. This irritated the Swedes and disgusted the Danes. But of all the Kingdoms, he despised Nordweg most, and was pleased with every Opportunity of shewing his disregard: For he seemed to disclaim their Affection; tho' he was afterwards forced to seek it, when he could not presume to meet the States General at Helmstadt.

The King's growing and visible Contempt of the Nordwegians was daily increased by a jealousy, which his favourite Subjects the Danes strongly expressed. These cryed out, that the Nordwegians were a strong, a bold, an hardy, a numerous and a warlike People; that they had many convenient Ports and Harbours, and lay between them and the Northwest Trade, and that they must prove dangerous Rivals to Danemarch, if the Government did not find Means of humbling them, of suppressing their warlike Spirit, restraining their Trade, and bringing them into strict Subjection to the Diet of Danemarch; without which, they thought themselves in perpetual

tual Danger, notwithstanding the King's fixing, at the present; his Residence among them, of becoming in some Time dependant on Nordweg.

This perverse Spirit grew daily stronger, and shewed itself more and more in every succeeding King of Danemarch, as well as in the whole People. And for its Gratification, it was judged expedient to abridge the Viceroy's Stay among them, as well as to send Persons of inferior Note and sometimes the most contemptible, the most abandoned and detested of the Courtiers, to serve that once honorable and important Office; and after a while, it was made a Rule of Danish Policy not to suffer a Native of Nordweg to come into that or indeed any of the other great Offices of the Kingdom; which were henceforth to be filled with Danes only.

Dupes as the Nordwegians long remained, they could not always continue insensible of these Slights and Oppressions. It could not fail of giving a more sensible and spirited Aversion to the Danes and all their Measures of Administration, and raising such a general Distrust in the Crown, that they began in some succeeding Reigns to enquire into the Causes of these Impositions, to dread worse Calamities, and to propose to one another some Means of redressing the present and obviating future dreaded Grievances.

The Nordwegians had yet retained just Sense enongh to resent this illegal and unjust Treatment, and some went so far as to judge themselves bound to pay no Regard to a King, who trampled the Union of Calmar and the other Laws under Foot; and therefore resolved to chuse a King for themselves.

Various Persons were by angry Heads, in tumultuous Assemblies, proposed; but few found equal to the Task. The Court had had Charms enough to attract all the Nobility of Weight to Danemarch; where they found Means of running out their Fortunes, and then were content to rely on the King for Subsistence. The

Clergy, who in all Countries flourish best within the Verge of a Court, went in Flocks thither. Many of the considerable Burgesies thought it not proper to live in a Country thus deserted; and the few that remained with the Paisantry were so divided for Want of Heads or Leaders, that all their Attempts, promising no Success, were at length laid aside in a Kind of Despondency.

This, to the Court, and indeed to all the Danes, appeared a complete Victory; they triumphed greatly upon it; and ever after, affected to look upon the Nordwegians as a spiritless, even as a conquered People, who for the future were to be treated as such, by imposing not only Kings, but all other Officers of State upon them, without any Regard to the Union of Calmar or their Concurrence in the Election, and ruling them by Laws, to which they could not give their Consent. The very characteristic of Slavery!

Here began the Tyranny of the Danes, and the Reduction, the Slavery of the duped Nordwegians. And from this Æra I date the Downfall of Dane-march, which Mr. Moseworth tells us took it's Rise, and came to a Conclusion within the Compass of four Days only.

The poor Nordwegians were not intirely insensible of the Ruin like to ensue these violent Outrages. And what rendered their Grievances the more intollerable, they saw themselves utterly deprived of all Means of redressing them: Their Navy was neglected and reduced; their Councils broken and headless; and no probable Means of extricating themselves from the present, or of obviating future Calamities, could offer amidst the direful Confusion that must have attended this Shock.

All this however might hardly have kept the enraged Populace quiet. There was a more powerful Motive. They, as well as the Danes had long had a Jealousy of the Swedes, which at Times broke out into

into furious Wars, which always kept up a mortal Enmity between the three Nations. This made the Nordwegians dread a falling out with Danemarch, the Consequence of which might be falling under the more dreaded Yoke of Swedeland : The one they as yet looked upon as a somewhat less Evil than the other ; and therefore let their Resentment to the Danes seem to subside in Hopes of a fairer Opportunity of regaining their lost Liberties.

In this Dilemma, they received some Satisfaction from the seeming Lenity, or rather the Cunning of the King, who sent his near Kinsman, Bogislaus, Son to the new Duke of Pomerania, to be their Viceroy. The Splendor of this Prince's Court brought back some of the Nobles, Clergy, and Burgessees, who had for some Time attended the Court at Danemarch. It pleased the Rest, while it served to amuse the Painsantry and the whole Populace.

Now, they begin to conceive some Hopes of a Restoration of their Government to the proper Channel, and seemed to be contented with the Shadow of Majesty in a Viceroy ; provided the other Parts of the Administration were carried on in the legal Form and Course.

This Governor finding out the Disposition of the People, studying his own Ease, and above all, judging violent Measures dangerous and destructive of the Ends in View, which were, by all means to subjugate the Nordwegian State to that of Danemarch ; agreed to the summoning an Assembly of the States.

This greatly rejoiced the People in general, bespake a Regard to the Crown, and raised a great Confidence in the Viceroy.

The Diet was freely chosen and met in seeming good Humour. The Viceroy declared his Commission, the tender Regard, the King, his Kinsman and Master, bore them, and his Determination to preserve their Rights and Liberties ; shewed that it was not

not then in his Power to come in Person to visit them; but that he should ever be attentive to their true Interest. Said, that his Majesty demanded nothing but what they judged proper for the Support of their Establishment. Recommended the Review of the Laws, due Care of their Land and Naval Forces; the Extension of Trade; the Improvement of Arts, and every Thing else that was popular.

This, like a Charm, instantly, effectually regained the Affections of the People. In Answer to it, each House made a proper Address to the Viceroy. Soon after, some proposed the granting of Subsidies; but wiser Heads thought it best to begin with electing a King. This could not fail of giving some Alarm to the Court. But, all Fears were removed by finding they only meant to chuse for themselves the same King, they had before chosen at the ineffectual Union, and prevent his being imposed upon them by the Danes; so they passed an Act electing the present King in Form, as they had done some of his Predecessors.

When this passed all the Forms and received the Royal Assent, not before, the several States made their respective Addresses to the King. The Nobles and the Clergy would have done it sooner; but dreaded to bring upon them the Resentment of the Burghers and Paisants, which must have been followed by that of the People at large.

When this was done, Subsidies were granted, and every other Part of the publick Business was dispatched to the general Satisfaction of the Court, as well as to that of the Country, who had now lodged a mutual Confidence in each other. And all being brought to a Conclusion, the Session ended in all Appearance, happily.

Nothing of any remarkable Controversy arose during this Session; except some Disputes about certain Forms of Procedure both in the Diet and in the supreme Court of Judicature. To complete these,

these, new Laws were proposed. But these Motions were artfully opposed by some, who moved, that they should be referred to the King and supreme Court of Judicature at Danemarch; where, it was presumed, there were not only Men of Indifference and Integrity, but Lawyers perfectly knowing in the fundamental Laws of all these Northern States, which stood upon much the same Basis.

None had Penetration enough to see through this artful Motion, which for Peace Sake past. Nothing could please the Court and all the Danes more than such an Application to them, as seemed to acknowledge a Superiority in that Court. The Court therefore took it into solemn Consideration, and most formally, indeed satisfactorily, decided the Question, and sent it pompously ingrossed, under the Seal of the Court, as a solemn Decree.

This being done to the Satisfaction of the Movers of the Question, was, upon their Motion, also received and recorded as a final Decision of the Points in Dispute. But it has proved the most fatal Stumbling-Block, that could be thrown in the Way of a falling People: This laid the first Foundation for the Danes or their Courts assuming any Sort of Superiority over those of Nordweg. And from this single Application to their King at a Distance, for his paternal Advice and Interposition to solve the Doubts and compose the Misunderstandings of his Nordwegian Subjects, have the Danes ever since claimed a Superiority in Jurisdiction to the supreme Judicature in Nordweg, and subjected the People, at immense Hazards and intollerable Expences, to appeal from the Determination of their Court, to that of Danemarch, from that Day to this.

It is hard to say, that the first Kings, who ruled at once Nordweg, Danemarch, and Swedeland, should so early, and while their Titles to the Throne was but elective, lay Schemes to enslave the former first, to

to facilitate their Intentions of including the latter in the same Yoke.

But it shews, that all supreme Magistrates, let their Title be what it may, and whoever is to succeed to their Authority, are ever grasping at Power. This is a Lesson to all Men, that regard their Freedom or that of their Posterity, to watch and guard against every, the slightest Incroachment of their Magistrates; since those, who are possessed of the Power, are seldom or never found to give up any Point, that tends to strengthen or enlarge their Dominion. Nero wished that all Mankind had but one Head; only for the Difficulty he found to manage the many. No King likes to head more than one considerable Government, and to this would make all his more distant Territories subservient.

How far our Schemes of Policy prove Exceptions to this Rule is very obvious; when all the World knows, as well as you, that the remotest Dominions of our Crown have their free and independant Parliaments, Councils, &c. where nothing is demanded, nothing done, but in due Course of Law; and that the Subjects are universally governed by Laws, to which they give their Consent; which denominate a free People, from whom, all Marks of present Fear of future Slavery are far removed. But no more of this; since Home is perfectly secure by the Means of wise and uncorrupt Councils and formidable foreign Forces, without any Likelihood of being infested by a Mob of Militia; let us amuse ourselves wisely at the Expence of our Neighbours; looking unconcerned at the various Revolutions and Declensions of their States, upon the never-failing Assurance of our infallible Security at Home.

When I thus endeavour to amuse the plodding Politic-mongers of this and the neighbouring Isle, and to divert them from the dangerous and now epidemic Frenzy of reading News-papers, and thinking and speaking

speaking of Naval Equipments and Engagements; of hanging or burning untried, unheard, presumed Offenders; of Game Acts, Militias, against Foreign Troops, and other such like Matters, that must ever lie beyond the Conception of the Vulgar, and such as are not deeply versed in the impenetrable Secrets and profound Mysteries of State-Managers; I expect to be attended to, and to find that my Labours are not in vain; that you smoke your Tobacco in silence, and touch no more upon Home Politics; and that you follow me through the colder Climates of the North. Adieu!

YOURS, &c.

LETTER V.

The Causes of the Destruction of the Free Governments of Nordweg and Danemarch continued.

MOST supreme Magistrates, by whatsoever Titles they are distinguished, unavoidably shew an Aversion to the calling of Councils. Most Men have an insatiable Lust for Power. Pride rises generally in proportion to the Zeal or imaginary Extent of Power possessed. And, being forced to consult Men, looked upon as his inferiors by infinite Odds, must be no small Mortification to him, that is, or would be, a Monarch; as it must hurt his Pride, and may curb his Ambition.

In this illuminated, happy Age, it may be difficult to conceive this in Britain, whose Kings, for Ages past, as well as this, have been so illustrious an Exception to this Observation, that none dare charge them or their Substitutes, in the remotest Parts of the Dominions, with having shewn any Unwillingness to meet and consult their Parliaments; when they were composed of Men to their mind, or appointed for a sufficient length of Time, to learn the Duty of Members to their Sovereign, or his Representatives.

Since then, annual and triennial Parliaments are by sage and deep penetrating Heads deemed dangerous

rous to the People, or unfit for the Purposes of our Wise and Righteous Rulers ; free-elected, uncorrupt, yea, uncorruptible Parliaments, appointed to serve the Length of an ordinary Apprenticeship, or occasionally longer, if they see it expedient ; have been called to assemble every Year ; to the Honour of the Sovereign, the Happiness of the People in general, and the particular Satisfaction, not to say emolument, of the Majority of the Parliament. And whatever might have been transacted by them ; on the Behalf of the Crown, it is notorious, that nothing has been demanded, in the Memory of Man, here or in Ireland, by the King or his Lieutenant, more than the usual, necessary Supplies. Then, to shew to what a Pitch, the Patriot Spirit has improved here, beyond any thing known in any other Nation, or in this, in any former Time ; instead of our Members receiving Wages from their Constituents for every Day they served in one of the short Sessions of their Antient annual Parliaments ; we see generous, great Men now, not only folliciting for the Service, but spending Eight or Ten Thousand Pounds, yea, sacrificing their whole Fortunes and sometimes running the Risk of their Lives, to have the Satisfaction of serving the Public, without demanding any Wages of them ; and that not for a Twelvemonth or so, but for Seven long Years or more. Let any Age or Country boast as much. And who but a Fool, can throw away a thought upon the Public Concerns committed to the Conduct of such Wise and Virtuous Hands ? — But, I see, I insensibly catch Infection from the bad Company one meets now a Days in every public Place, where incoherent, jarring Sounds of Ministry — Admiralty — Standing Armies — Fleets — Foreign Mercenaries — Law — Justice — Courage Parliament — Virtue — Execution — Promotion — Invasion, &c. &c. grates our Ears from every puny Whipster, whose Mouth is not filled with Tea or Tobacco.

What-

Whatever might have been the Dispositions of the Kings of Nordweg, while they kept their Court in that Kingdom; they now thought no more of it, than as of a necessary Appendage to Danemarch, or rather as a Tract of Land, that they wished destroyed, rather than preserved, and only kept it in their Hands, to keep it out of the Hands of neighbouring Powers, who might render it in all Respects formidable to its new Tyrants. One only Advantage, was seen in keeping it, by the Court, and for which alone, a Shadow of the antient Government was kept there from Time to Time; the Advantage was this.

The late, well instructed, Royal Viceroy settled the Schemes of the Court so well, that certain Finances were granted in perpetuity to the Crown. These were given on a pretence of easing the Subject of all future Impositions; to enable the King to support the civil Establishment, as it then stood among them; and to maintain a sufficient Force by Land and Sea to defend the State.

These Grants raised considerable Sums more than was expended in the Service of that Government; and this, the Present and all succeeding Kings applied to what Purposes they thought fit, in Danemarch, Jutland or elsewhere. So that in some succeeding Reigns, we shall find it applied to the worst Purposes, that could be devised; to debauch, to make and to pay Prostitutes of various Denominations: Sometimes the Court Sycophants of Danemarch, and sometimes the Royal Handmaids got Pensions upon the Nordwegian Establishment; sometimes, it was given to corrupt a Danish Election, or to bribe the Elected, by way of present or annual Pension. And thus Nordweg became a convenient privy Purse to the King; who did not think himself accountable to the Diet of either Kingdom for any Sums, he could draw thence; for, at Nordweg, the King's Mandate for any Sum was

was allowed by the States a sufficient Discharge for the Treasurer. This however was attended with some useful Consequences ; for, on account of this alone, every King thought himself interested in protracting the Ruin of Nordweg upon which the Danes were long intent. How widely different from the political Oeconomy of the King and People of these happy Kingdoms ? O ! Wise, O ! Great and happy Britons ! Scots ! And Hibernians !

It is scarce possible for a modern honest Briton to believe that such abominable Perverseness could get footing in human Hearts : We are to bless our Fate, who find, that no King so wicked as to demand perpetual Taxes, no Parliament so foolish, so slavish, so perfidious as to grant them, ever infested any Part of our happy Dominions ; and especially when we find no Part of the Funds, calculated for the Support of the States, are or can be squandered upon Panders and Parasites, or to efface all Sense of Virtue and Freedom, by bribing and corrupting the Servants of the States. While this is the Case, Britain may exult, assured of the Permanence of her Freedom and Power, and look down with Pity and Contempt on those despicable People, that with their Virtue have necessarily lost their Liberty. Thanks to the propitious Stars ! Such Slaves are far removed from these free Kingdoms ; therefore, let us look abroad ; and trace out the Causes of the downfall of Danemarch, if you do not Freeze in the Climate, or Narrative.

These Subsidies, thus secured in Perpetuity to the Crown ; it was now judged quite unnecessary to be at the Expence of sending a Viceroy to reside in Nordweg continually. Therefore, one was sent there once in Two or Three Years and sometimes only occasionally, when the Court wanted to give some of it's Schemes the Sanction of the Diet. And then, Somebody of inferior Note served the Purpose, whose stay there was no longer than the executing his Commission ; which generally succeeded within the Compass of a few Months. This

This could not fail of shocking the more sensible Nordwegians, who murmured at it in Secret. The less Discreet cryed out loudly against it. But, each soon saw the Folly of their ill-timed feeble Resistance: Their Diet had given perpetual Subsidies to the Crown, and these kept up a standing Army, before unknown in Nordweg, constantly on Foot, and now able, and ordered, to keep the whole People in Awe and Subjection. But, the Impositions of the Government did not stop here. When these Oppressions went quietly down, others were soon after imposed. The Diet was by antient Laws to be elected, as well as convoked, every Year. This, the Court judged troublesome; and ever hereafter summoned the old Diet occasionally, without any new Election, during the Life of the Member or the King, unless upon some Dislike, they were dissolved. So a Seat in the Diet of Nordweg was reckoned for Life. An Evil unknown in these free Kingdoms.

Thus were the Danes gratified by the duping and enslaving these mistaken Objects of their Dread and Envy, by overturning their political Constitution. In consequence of which, they thought themselves bound in Gratitude to make some Return to their co-operating King; whom they now considered as a victorious Hero, that had just vanquished their most dangerous Foes: The King, (how unlike our most gracious Kings of Britain!) Resolved to avail himself of the political Complacency of the Danish Subjects. He prudently resolved not to be too High in his Demands, and therefore at first contented himself with desiring, that the Appointment of the great Officers of the State, of the Senators, of the Burgo-masters, or chief Magistrates of Towns and Cities, and of the Landgraaves, or Governors of Counties, Officers bearing some Analogy to our Shirereeves or Sheriffs, should be vested solely in the Crown.

Though this was a Demand of a most extraordinary Nature, one which no good King could make, and which no wise, free People could grant; yet, after some inconsiderable Opposition in the House of Paifants, it past into a Law. So that the infatuated Danes, by giving into the Hands of the King, this exorbitant Power, of nominating all these great Officers, the Judges and Executioners of the Laws and the Presidents in the Elections of the Members of the two most considerable States of the Legislature, gave the Crown an Interest and an Influence, which these short sighted Mortals did not at first apprehend, and whose dire Effects, in process of Time, they severely felt.

What Briton can decline exulting, who sees how clear our righteous Kings have kept from the like destructive Ambition? How far our wise and faithful Parliaments, from such slavish, such perfidious Concessions? This King and his People might have been great and happy, had he but squared his Conduct by the Union of Calmar, or the other Laws of the Land, or by any Rules of Honour or good Policy. He set out, by the Agreement of the three States, King of Nordweg, Danemarch and Swedeland; and for a while, pleased them all. But in Time, he forgot himself, began to be intoxicated with his great Power; thought it could never end; and judged he might rule each Kingdom sometimes arbitrarily, provided he could keep upon Terms with the two Others. He began with alienating a Part of the Territories of Danemarch; the Island of Rugen, which he granted in perpetuity to his Kinsmen and Successors, the Dukes of Pomarania. This, the Danes bore with, for a while. When he thought the Resentment of the Danes had subsided; he made his next Attack on the Rights of the Swedes. He made free with the Public Treasure, violated the Privileges of the Diet in many Instances, particularly in

in filling the vacant Employments of the State, giving them to Foreigners, his Pomeranian followers, without the Consent of the Senate or the States.

The Preferment of Foreigners caused great Jealousies. These gradually rose to sharp Discontents, which made the People at length cry aloud, that the King did not govern them agreeable to his Coronation Oath.

He was now disturbed by these growing Discontents, to such a Pitch, that he thought it necessary for his Ease and Safety to retire into Gothland. Where, he meditated, and to his Confidents spoke of, the appointing a Successor to the Thrones ; for which he named his Kinsman and trusty Viceroy in Nordweg, his Couzin Bogislaus, now Duke of Pomerania.

His residing in Gothland gave Offence to all the States. But his presuming to appoint a Successor enraged the Danes excessively. The two Kingdoms cryed out at once against him, (Nordweg by Oppression being put out of the Question;) and almost unanimously agreed to cast him off, as an abandoned, perjured Tyrant. They therefore degraded and obliged him to quit the States for ever. He, with Reluctance and by Force, obeyed, returned to Pomerania, where in melancholy Madness, he ended his unhappy Life, bereft of his Dukedom, his Crowns and his Senses, about the Year 1439. A sad, but just Example to Tyrants!—Quite unnecessary to be shewn in Britain.

Upon the Deposition of this Tyrant, his Nephew, Christopher Duke of Bavaria was elected King, a Man of an inoffensive, pacific Disposition, who took Things, and left them, as he found them, without giving much Satisfaction or great Dissatisfaction to any of the States. He died peaceably in 1448.

After the Death of Christopher, the Danes would have chosen Adolphus, Duke of Slewwick, their King ; but he declined it, on Account of his Infirmitiy and Age, recommending to them his Nephew, Christiern, Count of Oldenburgh. And in these Families, the Crowns of Nordweg as well as Danemarch continued by a Sort of Rotation, in General more like an hereditary Succession than a free Election.

During the Reigns of *Christopher* and *Christiern* I. no Diet was assembled in Nordweg, excepting the second Year of the later ; and then nothing more was done, than acceding to the Election, before made by the Danes. The People now began clearly to see the Perfidy of the Kings of Danemarch, as well those they had acknowledged, as those that were imposed upon them by the Insolence and Cruelty of the Danes, whose galling Jealousy and strong Aversion, the Nordwegians could not fail of perceiving very sensibly.

It is easier to conceive than describe the heart Burnings, the Distresses and Anguish of the poor broken Nordwegians, when they saw the wretched Pass, to which they were unthinkingly reduced. In vain, they made various Attempts to break their Bonds and to set up a King of their own choosing : They found themselves beset with false Brethren, who betrayed their best Schemes, and with a standing Army, whose Force they were never able to Stem ; so that every Struggle, this unhappy People now made to regain their Liberty, served but to rivet on their Chains the faster ; while every King, who laid any new Imposition upon them, was sure of receiving some Addition to his Power over the Danes, by the ill-judged Concessions of a stupid, besotted, corrupt People, who in Time fell into the like Pit, with that, which their unhal-lowed

lowed Hands had dug for their unoffending, their inoffensive Brethren of Nordweg.

How hardly can Free Britons conceive, that any Country should produce such cruel, such short-sighted Slaves, as the Earth-born Race of Danes ! While Nordweg and Danemarch were in Hearts, as in Name, united ; while they had one common Head to govern them, one common Interest to serve ; no Power could prevail against them ; they must have been able to support each other against the utmost efforts of Tyranny, at Home or from Abroad, to break their Union, or to abridge their Liberties. Nothing but Jealousy could disunite them. That hellish Passion, combined with Envy, filled the malignant Breasts of the Danes, and made them run every Risk to their own Freedom and Peace, to overturn or destroy those of the Nordwegians.

It must be confessed, they succeeded to their utmost wishes : They saw all their Schemes against the Nordwegians take Place, to their entire Satisfaction : These were gradually spoiled of every Thing that sensible Men hold dear : They were restrained in their Trade, and compleatly bereft of their Liberties. But, no sooner were the Nordwegians thus entirely enslaved, than the succeeding Kings of Danemarch judged they might now with Safety and Success, practise upon the Danes, those very Arts, which they had taught, and which proved so successful in overturning the States of Nordweg.

To this, the Tyrants had no Obstacles to dread ; as the Powers of the only Country, that might have been interested in supporting the Danes, in any Emergency, were now reduced, and the peoples Aversion raised to Extremes against the Authors of their grievous Calamities. But, let us trace out the principal Means, by which these once

free States were reduced to the abject Vassallage, with which they are now broken and disgraced. This will properly fall under our Consideration in the next and succeeding Reigns, which are to be reserved for the Subject of subsequent Letters; if these be read.

Let me conclude this with observing, what a Fund of boundless Joy is laid up for us Britons, when we can see ourselves and Posterity out of all Danger, all Possibility of suffering any Thing like the Fate of this forlorn People; as the Genius and Measures of our Government and Administration are as different, as the Climates in which we live. O! comfortable Infallibility! O! glorious Security!

Let me not then find that one of you quits one favourite Diversion, to think seriously of any thing, especially in State Affairs. Spend your Mornings in Visiting and Gaming. And for your Evenings, solicit some of the late great *Minorca* Ministers, to secure you an Italian Opera; but let the Females be qualified as the Male-warblers are, to prevent such disappointments, as in the last. Then suppress all English Operas, for the better Support of the Foreign mutilated Choroisters. See if you can also get an unintelligible Burletto, and by all Means, engage a set of French Tragicomediants, and dancing Dogs. At the same Time, see that the British Theatre be enslaved by Law or kept in servile Subjection by lawless Force. Be all Managers, and rejoice in your own Noise and Confusion of all Order and Decorum. Recall the wandering Mother Midnight to revive her Oratory; and when the squeamish Magistrates will not suffer you to enjoy innocent, edifying Amusements, till the fourth judgment be repealed; go to the Coffee-house the Morning, to read this Paper, if you are engaged at Cards, and in the Evening your Devotion, or take a Nap with

Let

Let me not for the World find you with wrinkled
Brows and Arms infolded, crying, *there was a*
Time—there may be Men—We could if we would—
In the next Session—account for Misconduct—If
the M——y was Honest and Wise—If Patriot
Orators—If P—— could be depended on—
The city Remonstrate, or any other of the like mis-
giving Sayings or doubtful Insinuations. Leave
these Things to proper Hands. Look upon them
as out of your Spheres. Be not faithless, but believ-
ing. Think that all things are Right and return
to your pretious trifling. In which, you may now
and then be affisted by,

YOURS, &c.

LETTER VI.

*Concerning the something Rotten in the State of
Danemarch.*

THE enslaved Nordwegians at the Death of
every King of Danemarch, flattered them-
selves with hopes of obtaining some Redress in the
Successor.

Upon the Death of the late King, his Son John
was called to the Throne of Danemarch, and as of
course, ruled over Nordweg, under the same Title,
which was afterwards formally ratified by the
Nordwegians. This became a bold aspiring Prince,
and, like others invested with the same Rank,
thought of nothing less than extending the Power
of the Crown and constituting an hereditary, abso-
lute Monarchy in his Family.

This King had more Craft than most of his Pre-
decessors, and practised it, to all his Purposes, with
great Success. He determined to aggrandise him-
self and his Family. And saw, the only Way of
effecting his Intentions, was at first to affect a Mil-
dness and a sort of Indifference, in Matters of Go-

vernment ; seeming to leave all to the Senate and Diet ; in each of which, he first took care to secure some trusty Agents, powerful enough to prevent any Measures, disagreeable to their Master, being taken, if not to carry his Schemes into Execution.

Having made this intended Impression on the Minds of his Danes, secured to himself the utmost Prerogatives possessed by the most ambitious of his Predecessors, and gained some new Points in the Diet ; he next, cast his Eye towards Nordweg, where he found the People labouring under distresses and Discontents, not easily aswaged. These, he judged might prove some Bars to his Designs ; therefore, necessary to be removed.

He resolved on sending a Viceroy to Nordweg, and pitched upon Baron Gortsman, a Nobleman of an antient Nordwegian Family, of a considerable Fortune, of a smooth, mild Deportment, with Cunning and Resolution to execute any Schemes.

The Appointment of a Viceroy of any kind could not fail of comforting and reviving the drooping Spirits of the poor Nordwegians. They liked the Man appointed, and longed to receive him. He arrived amidst the Acclamations of the People ; who soon rejoiced more highly upon his giving them to understand, that he came to call a Diet, in which the King resolved, the States should correct past Errors in Government, redress Grievances and provide against future Evils, of every kind.

This Declaration, which was shortly after enlarged and ratified, in a Speech upon opening the Assembly of the States, gave the most universal Satisfaction. And the Diet, as in a kind of Transport, seemed to have forgot their intended Demands, to give up the long sought Redress of Wrongs, and to rest contented with the Clemency of the King and his Vicegerent.

How.

However, they had the Wisdom to re-elect the King or rather to recognise his Title; and then, to thank him for his paternal Care of them and to give Assurances of their strict Fidelity and Obedience to him and his noble Viceroy.

Yet, amidst the strongest mutual Assurances of Love and Duty past between the King and Diet; some Accidents arose, that had well nigh frustrated all their Schemes for Peace.

During the Time, in which the Diet was not called in Nordweg, in which many Tumults and Insurrections were raised throughout the Country, though quelled before they could take Effect; the Danes took upon them to make many Ordinances or Statutes to bind the Nordwegians, without their Consent; hoping thereby to fix upon them the Character of Slavery, indelibly.

It was moved in the House of Paixants, that all such Laws as were at that or any other Time imposed upon them without the Consent of the States legally convoked, which alone could give just Validity to Law, should be rescinded and declared not only null and void, but contrary to the Rights of the Nordwegian Subjects, which stood upon as firm a Basis as those of Danemarch or any other State. To these, some Terms were added, which charged Cruelty and Perfidy more strongly on the Danes and the several preceding Kings, than were thought consistent with the Peace and Concord, at present necessary to be preserved, for the crafty Purposes of the Crown.

All this met with no Opposition in the House of Burgesses. But, the Clergy softened it more to the Taste of the Court. And in the Nobles, who had lived for some Time mostly in Danemarch, it would have been quite rejected, had not the prudent Viceroy feared it's incensing the Diet and the universal

versal Populace, to the frustrating his favourite Schemes.

This artful Minister gave his Minions to understand, and they industriously propagated it, that there were many wholesome Laws included in those, they were now going to reject, and that it was better to adopt them and all the other good Laws of Danemarch, that related to Government, by receiving and giving them the Sanction of the Diet, which he was ready to affirm, than hazard the losing the Opportunity by their unseasonable Disputes. To which was added, that if the Diet should afterwards agree upon a Statute, declaring all Laws for the future made, in Danemarch or elsewhere, to bind Nordweg, without the Consent of the States; null and void; the Viceroy would readily give it the Royal Assent.

All cool and peaceable Heads agreed, that this was the best Expedient. So, the former Bill was put off to a long Day. A new one was Framed, receiving and approving all the Laws and laudable Customs of Danemarch, with respect to Government, and making them of perpetual Force and Obligation in Nordweg. And another Act was made, to render all Laws contrived for and offered to the Nordwegians, without the Consent of the States, null and void, and making it Penal in any Subject, of what Rank soever to enforce, attempt to enforce or pay Obedience to such.

This gave universal Content and gained the Viceroy the most unbounded Confidence of the People. They now looked upon themselves as restored to all their antient Rights and Privileges and secured in them by the Grace of the King and the Wisdom and Virtue of his Vicegerent.

The Viceroy now laid himself out for keeping up the Confidence of the People, thus reposed in him; as the only Expedient by which he might promise Success

Success to his other Projects. He kept a sumptuous, open Court ; was affable and placable ; hospitable and liberal ; and entertained the People with Sports, Shews, Interludes, Games and other Amusements, of such Kinds and Varieties, as surpassed the Conceptions of the wondering Nordwegians. He is said to be the first that introduced Music and Poetry into that Country. By which, he greatly softened and enervated that rough, and till then hardly civilized People. And it was in his Time, they first got a Tincture of Gaming. A Vice, which multiplied in future Reigns, and most of all Things tended to corrupt and deprave the Minds of the People, and thereby, to hasten their impending Destruction.

This great Governor was not contented with entertaining the People of the Capital with his Shews ; but he had some Games instituted in different Parts of the Kingdom. And when he found the Notions of his Integrity were established beyond the reach of Suspicion and that his Sports fully engaged the Attention of the People ; he purposed executing his grand Project. This, he imparted to his most trusty Minions in each Assembly of the States a few Days before he intended carrying it into Execution, and charged them, that without hinting at their Intentions, or his Designs, they should stay in Town and continue to sit and adjourn, for some Days.

In the mean Time, he determined to divert the Attention of those Members, whose Credulity he had raised in the former Parts of his Administration ; so as to lull them into a most profound, stupid Inattention, by instituting Games of Tilts and Tournaments for several successive Days upon the Plains of Hisham, several Leagues distant from the Capital, to evade a Law, that wisely prohibited Sports and Interludes of all kinds bieng had within a certain

certain Distance of the Seat of the Government, during the Sittings of the Diet. Here, a magnificent Seat was erected for the chief Governor himself, who, as artfully was given out, would attend there in Person, during these Sports.

Had the Diet of Nordweg been as unmindful of Sports in the midst of their Sessions, as attentive to Business, as distrustful in their chief Magistrates, as watchful of their Conduct, as our most Wise and faithful Parliaments have in all Ages been of the Conduct of our Sovereigns ; the most designing King or crafty Minister had never been able to dose the People into such a State of Stupidity, as to leave the Rulers such Opportunities, as they chose, to gain the wicked Ends they sought. With us, such Things are now judged absolutely impossible : We are not than to think about them.

The Nordwegians, seeming relieved from their late intolerable Burthens, by the apparent Clemency and Indulgence of the King and the Viceroy ; fell into such a State of Tranquility and Content, as Men freed from bodily or mental Pain are wont to enjoy. They began to forget their former Distresses, and giving themselves up to untasted Pleasures, set no Bounds to their Joys, but embraced every kind of Amusement that offered, with Eagerness.—Insensible ! Thoughtless ! Undone People ! How unlike us Britons and Hibernians ?

When the Viceroy found them wrought to this Pitch, the Games of Hisham were proclaimed. And when they began, as the crafty Governor judged it, all Ranks and Conditions flocked to see them. Scarce a Patriot Member of either House in the States could be found to deny himself the Enjoyment of a new Entertainment, though in the midst of the Session. Thither then all indiscriminately ran, as unsuspecting, as undesigning of ill.—Forlorn Wretches ! Inattentive to all the calls of Reason, their Duty, their Country ! The several

several Members of the States, who were intrusted with the Important, the fatal Secret, were faithful to their latter Trust, perfidious to the first and great One ; their solemn Engagements to their falling Country. Who dare say, that any Thing like this was ever heard of in the great Councils of Britain, or Ireland ? None ; such fraud, such perfidy on the Part of King or Parliament, I hope, never has nor ever shall be found upon our spotless Records !

Now, while the Members, who lately bellowed till they were hoarse for Liberty and their Country, forgot their Charge, and were indulging in the wanton Sports, calculated to amuse them from their Duty ; those, whom the subtle Viceroy corrupted for the nefarious Purposes of his perjured Master, neither slept nor slumbered, in their Task. The packed Remnant of the States met ; the most active Ministers proposed the Scheme ; which met with no delay, but from their Zeal in contending who should appear foremost in carrying it completely into Execution. A Bill framed upon the fatal Project took it's Rise and so suddenly and secretly past, without Opposition, through the several Estates, that not one of the Members, who suffered themselves to be diverted, by the lightest Trifles, from the most weighty and important Part of their Duty in Life, had the least Intimation even of the projecting such a Bill, till it past through all the Forms ; so that those watchful Guardians of the Liberties of their Country came just time enough to the General Assembly to be the wretched Spectators of the last Agonies of their murdered Country ; to be the sad Witnesses of the giving the Royal Assent to a Bill, in which it was enacted, that the States of the Realm should never presume to assemble, till upon the Remonstrance of the Viceroy to the King and Senate in Danemarch, Permission from the Crown, under the great Seal, should

should be obtained ; that, when thus by Permission assembled, they should not presume to frame any Bills or deliberate or debate upon any Matter, till the King and Senate were certified of the Expediency of such Bill and Matter to be debated, and had given the Royal Permission. And that no Bill, though thus permitted to be framed and past through all the Forms, should receive the Royal Assent before it should be presented to the King and the Senate in Danemarch, and by them solemnly approved, and returned under the great Seal. And to make the Bonds perpetual and unalterable ; it was additionally enacted, that disobedience to any Part of this Act should be deemed and punished as Treason ; and that the moving for or otherwise attempting the Repeal or Alteration of this Statute, without the Permission of the Crown, should be punished by Confiscation of Goods and Chattels to the Crown, and Imprisonment or Banishment of the offender's Person for Life or during the King's pleasure.

This great and fatal Work being finished, the Viceroy, in the Name of their most gracious Sovereign, thanked the faithful Diet for the extraordinary Regard, they paid the King, and the Favours, they had shewn his zealous Minister ; all manifested in that remarkable Readiness, that commendable Unanimity, with which they dispatched the public Busines, particularly the last Act, which his Majesty and all his good People of Danemarch, had so much at Heart. He told them, he had now finished the great Work, to effect which, he had the Honour of being sent. That he must now take his Leave of them, by dissolving the Diet ; that they may return to the Country to enjoy the Sweets of these Laws, they had so wisely provided and so unanimously past. And that, at his Return to the Royal Prefence, he should not fail of representing

senting the Allegiance of the Diet and Subjects of Nordweg in the true Light. Horribile Treachery ! Insolence ! And Cruelty !

Did ever People pay so dear for Sports ? Yes, all that suffer themselves by such Allurements to be diverted from the more Important calls in Life, must sooner or later share the like Fate every where ; except in these happy Isles. Were it possible that such hellish Machinations as these could have been at any Time contrived against any Part of the Dominions of our Crown ; free Britons must have been so far from receiving such an iniquitous Imposition, under the dread Sanction of Laws, that the Perpetrators of the nefarious Scheme could never escape condign Punishment : For, he that enslaves a British Subject any where ; by Men tender of their Liberties as Britons were ever found, must ever be deemed a common Enemy of the worst Kind. Such is the Sense of Freedom, such the Genius of this happy Government !

How different was the Case in Danemarch ? The Danes knew the Value of Freedom, and wished to enjoy it. But, they would not allow it to any others, not even to their neighbouring fellow Subjects of Nordweg ; but to overturn or even to curtail the Liberties of this People, would voluntarily risk or even give up some Portion of their own. Though in the end, it will appear, that without overturning the Constitution of Nordweg, that of Danemarch could never have been endangered, much less have ingloriously fallen, as it has done, within the Compass of four Days, into the worst State of Vassallage in Europe.

The sporting Counsellors of betrayed Nordweg had hardly Time to get any Intimation of the Act, which they, fatigued and almost wearied with their Sports, precipitately ran to see past, the last Day of the Session. They never dreamed that any Business

Business could be done in their Absence ; and astonished at finding not only the general Assembly of the Diet sitting, but the Viceroy gone to put the finishing Hand to some important Business ; they began to be alarmed, ran to the House, and just came in and took their Places, time enough to see the fatal Wound given their Country. — O ! Well deserved Slavery ! Had unoffending Posterity but escaped it !

Till the Diet was dissolved, these absent Members were not apprised of the Nature of the horrid A&t. They had then Time to read it and repent their Folly and Baseness at their Leisure. It was not till then, they had Time to see, that their Inattention had betrayed and undone their Country.

The great Work being done, the Viceroy thought it prudent to retire, and so prepared all Things ready for his Departure, against the Time in which he should have executed his grand Design. Having therefore ordered a sufficient Guard of Horse and Foot to Escort him to the Water's side, conscious of Guilt, and consequent Danger ; he imbarke^d, and soon after arrived in Danemarch, where he was received with more universal Acclamations of the People, than at his first Arrival in Nordweg ; and at last was honoured with the Caresses of Majest^y, for his great and faithful Services, in compleatly subduing the Kingdom of Nordweg ; as the first and great Step towards making him or his Successors Despotic in Danemarch.

We shall hereafter see how this Scheme wrought the Effect, unforeseen by the stupid, corrupt People, fought by the King ; though it required much more Time, than it's wicked Projectors at first apprehended. How can we sufficiently admire the Excellency of the Governments of these confederate Isles ? The Greatness and Goodness of our Kings ? The Wisdom and Probity of the Legislatures ?

Their

Their unwearied Watchfulness and inviolable Regard to the public Liberties of their respective Kingdoms? Their acting in Harmony, in perfect Unity together? Their preventing all Jealousies and giving the People of both States, one common Interest to serve, which must ever connect and Strengthen them both, and keep the one, an impregnable Bulwark to the Liberties of the other? While Danemarch, now too late, sees and repents of the evil Effects of her tyrannising over her Sister Nordweg. If there were any Similitude in your Cases, or any appearance of Danger, you might pray, from the wretched Fate of Danemarch, Good Lord deliver Us! While I should most heartily say, *Amen.*

YOURS, &c.

LETTER VII.

*A continuation of the Causes of the Subversion of the
Freedom of Danemarch.*

A House divided against itself can hardly stand. And the Union of confederate States, once broken, must sooner or later be attended with the Weakening, if not the Downfall of one or all of them. This has been verified in numberless Instances, antient and modern. The fate of Nordweg and Danemarch is a sufficient Example. I need relate no other.

Nothing proves the Wisdom and Virtue of the Head and Members of our great Government more than their constant Attention to the Perfect and inseperable Union of the different States of our Dominions, as the most certain Means of Strengthening and Securing the Whole. It is unnecessary to give instances of the Regular and uniform Distribution of Laws, and even the Profusion of regal Favours, poured forth in all Ages of our

Government upon the remotest Parts of our Dominions : The Union of two most different regions into one Kingdom ; and the equal Protection, Freedom, and necessary Equality in Trade, granted and maintained to another Part, are lasting Monuments of this Truth.

But, if any should be Blind or Absurd enough to doubt it, let them see what Sense of the Necessity of this Equality was retained in Britain even in Times of Usurpation and Anarchy. This, I shall shew in an Anecdote in the Life of CROMWELL ; which, though well attested, has hitherto escaped the Historiographers of that Age.

When our good Neighbour, the Grand Monarque of France, meditated the Salvation of the Souls of our Ancestors and the Inlargement of his Dominions, by the Conquest of these Nations, and an Invasion was then threatened as now ; it was judged Expedient to Arm and Array the Inhabitants in their own Defence, as no foreign Soldiers, I presume, were then to be hired ; as it was also judged requisite to Fortify some of the principal Ports, on the Side next France.

This was proposed in Council, where the Tyrant, dignified with the great Title of Protector, presided. Various Ports were mentioned, as the most Important and Necessary to be Fortified. His Highness heard each Member with Attention, and then gave Utterance to his own Sentimens. ‘ Are there not’, said he, ‘ Some other Ports, of no less Importance to us than these, that deserve our Attention ? — Whether Ignorance or a little of the Danish Spirit prevailed in this mock Council is not now material enough to be examined ; it is enough, that they answered in the negative. ‘ What,’ Says CROMWELL, ‘ Have we not such Ports as Cork, Kinsale and Waterford ? — ‘ Yes, my Lord,’ replied the Counsellor, ‘ these are not in England.’ — ‘ And why are

‘ are they not in England?’ rejoined the Stern Protector; ‘ As the Lord liveth’, added he, ‘ If I continue Protector of this Common-wealth, they shall be in England; let them be Fortified.’

When an Usurper could thus level all Distinctions between the different States under his Government, or Protection, and declare, in Terms not outdone, if ever equalled, by any Hero of Antiquity; that they should be but one common People, united in the same Principles and Interest; it is easy to judge what must have been the Sentiments of our lawful and rightful Sovereigns on this Subject. It is not even to be supposed, without Injury, that they could at any Time make Distinctions, cause Jealousies and Divisions among their People; give one Part Preference to another, or set up one Nation in Opposition to another. The good Intelligence and Concord subsisting between the People of all Parts of our Dominions, their uninterrupted Freedom and just Equality in Trade are incontestable Proofs of the Truth of this Argument. See how I have insensibly digressed from my Subject! Let the unthinking skip this over as it relates to Matters, that never engaged their Attentions. And let the Humane and Sensible, if this falls into any such Hands, indulge me in contemplating, in exulting upon the Wisdom and Greatness of our Government, which can never swerve from the Principles of it’s Institution. Could Danemarch say as much, she had not now worn the galling Yoke of Bondage. O! short-sighted, infatuated, abandoned Slaves!

John having thus obtained his great Ends in subjugating the Nordwegians, as by their own Consent, in due Form of Law; gained the utmost Applause and good Will of the Danes; so that hardly any Thing could be refused him in the Diet, that he could ask. He bestowed the Crown Lands, though by Law unalienable, on his Favourites. The Diet granted him armed Guards for his Person, the first Soldiers

that were kept on Foot in Danemarch, in Times of Peace ; and this, upon Pretence of some Danger apprehended from the Discontents raised in Nordweg. Any Thing serves for a Pretext for a Tyrant's raising or increasing the Number of his Army.

Had the ambitious Disposition of this Prince continued, he might have compleated the Despotism of the Crown in Danemarch. He waged War against the Swedes to make good his Title to the Crown, conquered them and was crowned King in the Year 1497. But Steen Sture beat him out of Sweden, and supported a War against him, till growing fonder of Peace, the Differences were amicably composed, and he gave himself up to Ease and his Pleasures. As he grew old, he became avaricious. His chief Passion was now filling his Coffers ; and while he gave up his principal Attention to this, he was called to Eternity ; not before all good and wise Men became ashamed and wearied of his long, lascivious Reign. But Men of this Cast were not now very numerous, in Danemarch. So neither Grief or Shame yet reached the motly Multitude, on this Occasion.

This King added one material Point to the regal Power, without the Authority of the Diet or Senate, which none of his Predecessors had ever presumed to attempt, without the Sanction of the States.

When every other Estate of the Legislature was elective, and even the Crown itself, it was not to be presumed, that the Nobles were to be left to elect themselves in Succession, much less, that they should be appointed by any of the other Estates, without the joint Consent of the whole Legislature.

The Nobles were always Counsellors to the Crown, and made up the principal Part of the supreme Judicature of the Realm ; before whom also, a Nobleman could only be tried for an Offence. They had Privileges above the Commonalty. Every individual then, in the State, became interested in the Appointment

pointment of Nobles. It was at least evidently necessary to limit their Number. In the first Place, their Rank and Office was the only one that was hereditary in the Kingdom. In the next Place, it was not fit they should be dependant on, nor subservient to, the King ; nor was it thought safe in wiser Times, to let the Crown make Nobles at Pleasure ; because, it was filling up the supreme Tribunal with his Creatures, overturning the Balance of the Legislature ; when any Number of the Commons might be ennobled ; consequently endangering the Safety of the Nobles themselves, which might be outnumbered and overpowered by Creatures of the Crown ; as well as setting the House of Burgeses and that of the Paisants at nought, to say nothing of that of the Clergy. Hazards and Grievances, to which no Free and sensible People could, in any well-policied State, submit.

Therefore, before Corruption took Root in the Reign of John, no King took upon him to create or appoint a Noble, in Danemarch or Nordweg, without the joint Concurrence of the States. The utmost that had ever before been done was for the Crown to recommend a Person of distinguished Merit in the State to the noble Rank, and to give him the Title ; which was but an empty one, till it was ratified by the Assembly of the States. In like manner, any other Estate in the Legislature might recommend a Person of conspicuous Worth, who had done signal Services to the State, particularly in Battle, or a Kinsman of the Crown, to be ennobled ; and such Recommendation, which rarely came from any other than the Nobles themselves, seldom failed of obtaining the Ratification of the general Diet ; without which, no Man could be ennobled or obtain a Seat in the Assembly of the Nobles. This must have made the Nobility most respectable and desirable, as it is always among Us.

But, such an Ascendant had this artful King unaccountably gained over his falling Subjects, that they never so much as objected to his assuming, without the Shadow of lawful Authority, a Power which he much abused, by creating some spurious Peers, in his life Time, and which his Successors abused in the like Manner, and also applied to the dangerous Purposes, we shall explain in the Sequel. Besides, this made the Nobility cheap and despicable; when flattering a Tyrant or ministering to his Vices, in Time, proved the requisite Recommendation to be ennobled. Abuses, unknown in our happy Realms!

But, while this crafty King assumed the sole Power of creating Nobles; he also contrived the Means of humbling them. He first found Means of making their Estates alienable, which by Law were deemed unalienable. This brought them soon to a greater Dependancy on the Crown. And, to break their Power still farther, he found Means of increasing the Power and enlarging the Number of the Commons, in order to establish a better Ballance, or to throw it into the popular Scale; finding that, at present, more for his Purposes: For, these Kings seldom thought much for Posterity: Present Expediences took up all their Attention and Care. How unlike our gracious Sovereigns?

Thus, not suddenly and violently, but by degrees, the Foundation for the horrible Tyranny, which now prevails in Danemarch, was, by the Contrivance of the Danes themselves, laid in Nordweg; and that, not by Hereditary, but by Elective and Elected Kings! Had this been the original Constitution of the State; had their Kings been of divine Appointment, and Hereditary by the Grace of God; had they been without Spot or Blemish; full of Wisdom, Grace and Truth, without the Shadow of Imperfection; had they been God's Vicegerents in the Dispensation of Justice and Mercy, without being capable of Error or Evil; and the prime Fountain of Honour, like our most Gracious Kings; . they

they then might well assume the Prerogative of giving Honours, of creating Nobility, even out of the basest Mould. But, for these little, insignificant Creatures of their own pitiful People, tinsel'd over with the bare Titles and outside Shew of Majesty, to awe a sordid, slavish Populace ; for these to take so much Royal Sovereignty upon them, as to create Nobility, was an Insult to true Majesty, as well as an insufferable Invasion of the people's Rights, and proved in the End, one of the principal Means of the precipitate Subversion of that most unhappy State. Were it possible, as surely it is not, that any of our most Wise, Just and gracious Sovereigns should at any Time have assumed a Power, so inconsistent with the Principles of our Policy, so Dangerous, so Destructive as this must appear ; it is not to be imagined, that a People inspired with such a noble Spirit of Liberty, as ever did, and ever must, animate the Bosoms of Britons, could suffer the shameful pernicious Evil to take Root, much less to bring forth Flowers or Fruit, in the State. Hither then, we need not cast our Eyes ; let us wisely look Abroad and amuse ourselves ; leaving our domestic Concerns, with due, boundless Confidence, in the proper Hands ; exulting in the full Assurance, that as they never did, so they never can abuse it.

Upon the Death of John, his Son, Christiern II. was called or succeeded to the Crown. This Man had an Eye on the political Deportment of his Father, and laid down the Conduét of his worthy Parent and Predecessor, as the Basis of his Administration, when he should mount the Throne.

He had all the Pride and Ambition of his Predecessor ; but wanted his Dissimulation and Spirit. He had as bad a Heart, but a much worse Head, than his Father. And thus qualified, commenced his Reign, and in some Time, grasping at once in his Hand, as some of his Predecessors since the

Time of Queen Margaret had done, the Sceptres of three Kingdoms, Swedeland, Danemarch and Nordweg, which she had solemnly United. But, we have seen, this Union was not of long Duration.

He set out with giving the People of Danemarch, the most solemn Assurances of governing them in all Respects agreeable to the Laws, not otherwise; particularly, that he would never lay his Hands upon the public Treasures, without the Consent of the Diet; nor disturb their Peace or Liberties by taking Foreigners into Employments or Favour; and, that if he transgressed the ascertained Bounds of the Royal Prerogative, of which the Senate and States were sole Judges; he would peaceably submit to their Judgement, and suffer himself to be degraded and dethroned.

This was the Sum of the Oath, which this and the preceding Kings of Danemarch were obliged to take at their Coronation. This King took it then in Form. But, to persuade the People of his Willingness to be governed and directed in all Things by the States of the Realm; in the first Assembly, he convoked, he voluntarily repeated the Oath. By which, he greatly gained the Confidence of the Diet and People.

But see, how Men become intoxicated with Power! He no sooner got himself settled on the Throne, than he began to shew his natural Disposition; and edged on by the Flattery of his Courtiers, he was soon made to forget or disregard all his popular Declarations and even his solemn Oath to the People. He threw off the Mask and resolved to take the shortest Course possible to establish his intended Despotism: And with this Intent, began with dissolving the Diet, because they did not seem willing to comply with his exorbitant Demands.

Yet, he had just Sense enough to recollect that the Change he sought was not to be suddenly wrought;

wrought ; that the designed and all extraordinary Measures must be gradually brought about, or that Force was not to be safely attempted, till he should have got sufficient Power in his Hands effectually to secure his projected Conquests.

Before he launched out into his purposed Measures in Danemarch, he resolved to gratify the Populace in some Instance, that should gain him Credit and Confidence. This, he craftily observed, was best to be done at the Expence of the undone Nordwegians, who were not yet reduced low enough to be overlooked by the jealous, invidious Eyes of the short-fighted Danes, who seemed to be gratified with nothing so much as the compleat Destruction of that miserable People ; never considering, that this must precipitate their own projected Downfall.

The Danes had Beef enough for their own Consumption, as well as for some of the neighbouring Markets. At this Time, they were able to undersell the English in this Article, by which, much Money was brought into the State. The Lands of Danemarch and Jutland being fit for fattening, and too good for breeding horned Cattle, the breeding Trade fell partly to the Share of the Nordwegians, who brought up poor, small Cattle, and sent them the shortest Way by Water to Danemarch, where they were fattened, slaughtered, cured and exported.

However necessary to Danemarch, the miserable Share of this Trade, which the Nordwegians enjoyed, may appear ; the invidious Danes chose to want it, rather than let the others have any Portion of the Benefit.

The King saw this, and knowing that the Impoverishing one of the States must, in Time, hurt and humble the other, and so forward his destructive Projects ; he resolved to gratify the Danes, and so got some of his Minions to prepare a Bill to prevent the Importation of live Cattle from any Part of

of Nordweg, into any Part of Danemarch. The Bill was brought into the Diet and soon passed into a Law.

This at first reduced Numbers of Nordwegian Farmers to Beggary: They had no Means of paying Rent for the Lands, they held, but the Sale of their Product. They could produce nothing but these pitiful Cattle. They were therefore forced to give up both Land and Cattle to their exacting Land-lords. These, while they were paid their Rents, chose to live in Danemarch. But, finding their Lands surrendered and the Cattle given up for the Rents; they brought some Men knowing in the Trades of fattening, slaughtering and curing Beef from Danemarch with them; and by Degrees, got into the Methods of making it merchantable; so that they soon became able to undersell the malevolent Danes, and supplant them in this very Trade.

This Scheme, however flattering at first, in the End, was not found to answer the Ends of its Projectors. On the contrary, it will appear, that every wicked Project to oppress the Nordwegians, served in the Issue to bring about the Destruction of the Danes.

After this, he began with culling the Officers of the State, and modelling them universally to his Mind. But, either he had not the Judgment to do this as slowly and cautiously as he should, or his Flatterers made him too precipitate in the Change: He turned out all that he suspected, whether those that usually had held their Offices for Life or during good Behaviour, or those whose Offices were only annual. He resolved to let the one see, that the former Employments should now be held only during the Royal Pleasure, and that the later should be changed as he saw Occasion. He also changed many of the Senate, and greatly enlarged the Number of the Nobles. The vacated Places, he filled, without the least

Regard

Regard to Merit, the requisite Recommendation was only Adulation and Servility: Such as shewed most of this were sure of the first Employments or Rank; while being but reputed Honest or Wise was a sufficient Cause for removal from all Employments about the Court, and expressing a just Sense of the Freedom and Rights of the People was a capital Crime.

Before he took these Steps, he was by the Generality well esteemed, had many ordinary and some firm Friends among all the Officers of the State, as well as in the Diet.

For want of Penetration and Discernment, or trusting too much to his Flatterers, against whose Interest it was to leave a Man of Sense or Virtue in Favour with their Master, whom they resolved to ingross, for their own base Ends; the King removed some of his best Friends from different higher and inferior Offices, and put in many that were determined to serve or befriend him no longer, than it appeared to be their Interest; he managed the general Elections of the Diet, by his Influence on the returning Officers; in which, more of his sinister Influence, than Prudence appeared; and he disgusted all the antient Nobles, by investing Men with that Honour, who had no better Pretensions than a pleasing Out-side or Drefs, or the meanest Servility to a worthless, designing Prince.

Men of less Sense and Honour than the degenerate Danes, if such there ever were, could not avoid being offended with such an oppressive, iniquitous Administration; yet, for some Time, they had not the Spirit to oppose it, till he galled and bruised them with Cruelties of a deeper Die.

His Profusion to his favourite Concubine, her Mother and the other Slaves about him, soon exhausted his private Coffers; the public Funds were wasted for Purposes foreign to the Intent of the Diet. And not long after, he found his Revenues were

were not sufficient to defray his exorbitant Expences, which he could not now presume to retrench : For, he had Sense enough to know, that those, whose Services he had engaged only by Gifts or Bribes, would serve him no longer than they were gratified. A profligate People deserve, and generally make, an abandoned King.

These Extravagancies soon reduced him to great Streights, and put him upon various Shifts for raising Money. He borrowed, while he had any Credit, even with his Panders, which was not very long, when they saw his Circumstances. And at length, he resolved to ask Supplies of the Diet, which for some Years, he did not choose to meet ; remembiring his Insolence in dissolving them, and conscious of the Blackness of his Designs, if not of the Illegality of the past Part of his Government.—What a Slave is a King, governed by his Lusts and flattered by his Minions !

The States were not so insensible, as not to be irritated by the Behaviour of the King : They met in bad Temper, and received the Motion of the King's Ministers for some additional Supplies to his Majesty, with so bad a Grace ; that, despairing of Success, dreading a proposed Examination of public Accounts and an Enquiry into some Parts of his Conduct, the King thought it proper to dismiss the Diet as abruptly as before.

This was but a bad Expedient. But, no better was to be expected from the Perverseness, he early shewed, and the apparent Influence of destructive Flatterers. The Diet and the People in general began to distrust their King. And even the most short-sighted judged, he had an Eye to Despotism, or at least, meant to rule without the Assistance of the States. This, his subsequent Conduct put quite out of Doubt. Yet were the Danes in General Slaves

Slaves enough to bear, some of them, to vindicate and countenance his Perfidy.

His first Step, after this, was to command the same Taxes to be levied for his Use, that were granted to his Father to carry on his Wars. This however, he would not venture upon, without giving it some colour of Law. The Presidents of his Courts were consulted for the Purpose ; and they hardly asserted, that the King might, upon just Emergency, of which he was the Judge, levy Taxes on his Subjects, in such manner, as he should see it expedient. This Doctrine was promulgated by his Flatterers, even from the Pulpits. The King hardly wanted this to authorise his intended Oppression. But, it being easily obtained, he proceeded with a better Grace, and his Officers acted with greater Confidence under such a Sanction. He obliged many of the Commons to take Titles of Knighthood and Nobility ; for which, he extorted most exorbitant Sums, by way of Fees of Honour. He also laid an arbitrary Tax on all the Lands of the States of Danemarch, and an Impost upon all the Shipping of their Ports ; and demanded of several Towns extravagant Sums, by way of Loan ; all which were exacted, by his Officers, in a most violent rigorous Manner, fining and imprisoning all that opposed ever so slightly, or refused them. Some were put to Death by the Kings Order for being a little tumultuous in their Opposition ; the Principal of which, was Torborn Oxe, Burgomaster and Governor of the Castle of Copenhagen. The Tyrant's growing bloody did not yet rouse these sluggish Slaves to a Sense of their Wretchedness ! Yet, so far did a seeming Sense of Morality or Religion prevail at this Time, that some of what they called the better Sort of People affected to be much offended at the scandalous, adulterous Life, the King led. But, the Generality expressed their Dislike of this Part of the King's Conduct only, because

because his Handmaid was a Foreigner ; they probably would have allowed him one of their Sisters, their Daughters or their Wives ; but could not bear the thought of his preferring to them a Stranger, a Dutch Woman of mean Birth and meaner Education, called Duivecke ; and were piqued, because she and her Mother, Sigiberta, a sordid, crafty old Woman, not much better than a Bawd, in our Language, had gained the Ascendant so far over the hag-ridden Sovereign, as to have all Things, in the King's Power, at the Disposal of her or her Daughter. It hurt the Danes to be obliged to sollicit these, and sometimes to bribe them, to obtain Favours, or even Justice at the Hands of their King. Otherwise, it is probable, they had been as content as those, that were gainers by the Iniquity, appeared. For, they that seemed most affected by the King's being held in leading Strings by Harlots, seemed only to lament the vast Sums likely to be some Time carried out of the Kingdom, by the Sale of all Employments, Ecclesiastic as well as Civil and Military, now committed to the Disposal of Duivecke and Sigiberta. Conscience, as well as more common Commodities, was now brought to Market, in Danemarch.

About this Time, Steen Sture the Younger had well nigh established himself upon the Throne of Swedeland, to which Christiern laid hereditary Claim. The Danish King had augmented his Land and Naval Forces, with Intent to assert his Demand ; when a favourable Opportunity offered to countenance his Design. Gustavus Trolle, the Archbishop of Upsal, a haughty, overbearing Prelate, for giving some Opposition to the Progress of this aspiring young Prince, who was not, it seems, a favorite Son of the Church ; was by the Conqueror's Forces dispossessed of his Palaces and Castles, and obliged to fly his Country.

Christiern,

Christiern, judging it of great Importance to his Cause to get the Church of his Side, laid hold of this Opportunity of espousing, as he pretended, the Archbishop's Cause, who now fled for Succour into Danemarch, where he laid the Scheme for an Invasion of his Country. In this Dispute, the Holy Monarch of Rome thought it necessary to take a considerable Part. He imposed heavy Penance on the Swedes for their Treatment of the Archbishop. And Christiern, equipped with Blessings from Saint Peter's Successour, and an Army raised and supported by the Spoils of his People, went into Swedeland, as if to execute the Pope's Decree; gave the Swedes Battle; in which, to their irretrievable Confusion, Steen Store was Slain, and his Army routed; after which, the only Difficulty Christiern met, was to force the distressed but heroic Christina, the Widow of Steen Store, to surrender the City of Stockholm; soon after which, the Invader was crowned there King of Swedeland, by the restored Archbishop, Trolle; and confirmed in his Conquest by a Bull from Rome.

Here, the Monarch shewed himself a true Son of the Holy Church, and fully sated his Thirst for Blood. The Swedes, he now deemed his by Conquest, and by Grant from the Pope; as well as by Hereditary Right; not regarding the long neglected Union of Calmar. And though he published a general Amnesty, or an Act of Indemnity and Oblivion, upon the Credit of which, all that had opposed him, thought themselves secure, and returned peaceably to their Habitations; as soon as he found them quite off their Guard, he had great Numbers of them taken, put into noisom Prisons, wherein many of them starved or were otherwise more mercifully murdered; while the Tyrant had Deluges of the purest Blood of the best Nobility spilled by the Hands of the common Hangman,

in the public Streets ; all, as he pretended, to revenge the Insults given the Church in their Archbishop ; upon the Restoring of whom, he received the Benedictions of the Catholic Church, and possessed himself of the Estates of the murdered Swedes.

But, neither these ill deserved Benedictions or ill-gotten Lands availed him much ; he seemed hardly to have fairly possessed either : For, the smothered Aversion of the Danes to him rose higher than ever could have been expected from such Sots. Gustavus Erickson, sometime a Prisoner in Denmark, was permitted to escape, got into Sweden-land, stirred up the Dalecarlians and others to oppose this cruel Ravager, and in a short Time defeated, and routed his whole Army, and drove him shamefully out of their Country.

Upon his Precipitate return Home, he found his Authority so far lost, among the dastard Danes, chiefly perhaps by his Absence, that he was insulted, even by his own Creatures ; who, during his Power, flattered him in all his worst Vices. He also found, that the Jutes had entirely withdrawn their Allegiance from him ; which put him into such a Consternation, that he fled with his Wife and Children into the Netherlands.

Unhappy Tyrant ! where was the servile Train of Courtiers, who so lately deified thee, and seemed to live but in thy Smiles, like Flies or Maggots in the Sun ? Where, the numerous Band of Flatterers, who helped thee to believe thy self, Heaven's vicegerent, almost Omnipotent ? Where, thy Victorious Army ? Where thy false Counsellors ? Could not all these support thy illicit Power, so necessary for their base Measures, as well as thine ? No ; all forsook thee, like the Tempter. Thine evil Genius hurried thee into every publick and private Immorality ; made thee shut thine Eyes against the Light

Light and thine Ears against the Truth ; made thee a Prey to Flatterers ; hardened thee for a while in thine Iniquity ; and when the Measure thereof was full, abandoned thee to Confusion, Shame, Disgrace, and Distress ; made all good Men hate thee ; thy false Friends fly thee, and thy Subjects forsake thee ; till at length, thy Conscience flying in thy Face, made thee like a base Coward, fly that Country, which once would have died in thy Defence !

Wouldst thou call the neighbouring Powers to thine Aid ? They dare not openly, if they would, assist thee : Such as would gladly tread in thy tyrannic Steps, now dread thy Fate : Thou and thy Tyranny must fall. And thy bad Measures and precipitate Fate will be set up as a warning to Princes yet to come !

Hey day ! Say you, what is all this to us ? — I know you love a little sweet Variety and therefore I gave you this Rhapsody. I know beforehand, it can not affect you : For, you are, in spight to me, grown so very knowing in Politics, that most of you have got the History of England in the way of Question and Answer, by heart ; and as you are happily perswaded, that there never was nor can be such a Character as this among your Sovereigns ; you sit down pleased and contented in your Security. What should you, in the Name of Wisdom, do otherwise ? Do so still ! Go on, giddily, merrily ! Trifle away Life gaily, unthinkingly ! Eat your Beef and Pudding, without fear or thought of being reduced to Ragouts ! Smoak, Laugh and be Fat ! Let not the Histories of fallen Danes or Swedes affect you more than a sham Death or pretended Distress in a Tragedy does : Laugh at both alike. Make all these Things serve to amuse you, to divert, not to raise, your Thoughts ; but, if you tire of reading these Papers, before I grow weary of writing them, get
F. you

you a Collection of Balads, set to filthy Tunes.
Farewell! If you can.

YOURS, &c.

L E T T E R VIII.

Touching the Epidemic, Political Distempers of Denmark and Nordweg.

IF this should happen to find you in no worse Disposition to amuse yourselves with this distant Subject, than the last did; you may give me leave to conduct you back again to see what happened these States after the Expulsion or Flight of Christiern II.

During this Tyrant's Absence in Swedeland, the Danes began to meditate their own Safety, and determined to call some other Prince to the Throne. They pitched upon Frederick Duke of Holstein and Uncle to Christiern II, who had lately embraced the Augsburg Confession of Faith.

But, when their King vacated the Throne by Flight, they elected Frederick, King, invited and crowned him at Copenhagen, about the Year 1523.

Such as were not pleased with this Election, raised Money and Forces to restore the deposed King. But, he had not Courage to put himself at their Head; upon which they were totally and finally dispersed upon the Appearance of Frederick's Army.

Yet notwithstanding the Cruelty and Wickedness of the Reign of Christiern, some foolish Bigots resolved to follow him and share his Fate. These, by the Assistance of the Dutch and other neighbouring Powers, equipped a small Fleet, and with a few hired Forces, and Arms for many more, they prevailed on their dethroned King to imbark and sail for Nordweg, upon the Assurance of many resolute Friends in that Kingdom; knowing it was there he had had least

least Opportunity of oppressing and irritating the People.

They arrived at Nordweg, debarked their Troops, without Opposition, and were soon joined by Numbers, who were from Motives of Conscience induced to take up Arms for this distressed Prince, whose real Character, they had not had Time or means to learn.

Though Frederick had not as yet been received King of Nordweg in Form of Law; yet a strong Aversion to the Tyranny of Christiern, made many declare and take up Arms for the Former, who had learned the Temper and Conduct of the Later.

The choleric and cruel Disposition of Christiern could not, in his decline of Fortune, brooke this Opposition; whereupon he declared all Men Rebels and Traitors, that should not lay down their Arms and swear fealty to him, as to their lawful Sovereign, and made it Capital in any three of them to meet upon any Pretence whatsoever, till they had come and taken this Oath.

Upon such a Placart as this, Numbers were imprisoned and most cruelly treated and some put to Death.

Frederick upon his Election, had sent Cnut Gyldenstern his Viceroy to Nordweg, and he arrived there but a short Time before Christiern. He, on the Part of his King, published Placarts, ordering all the Adherents and Followers of Christiern to lay down their Arms, disperse, and take the Oath of Allegiance to his King, on Pain of being treated by him as Traitors and Rebels.

In such a Situation, it was hard for the poor Nordwegians to tell whom to obey. Gyldenstern ended the Dispute by marching an inconsiderable Army against Christiern's, which was now become very Numerous and Powerful. But hardly had the two Armies engaged, when Christiern, dispirited by his guilty Conscience, fled, and with him, a considerable

Part of his Nordwegian Army, together with all his foreign Mercenaries.

The dejected Tyrant now thought of nothing but the Safety of his own Person ; and upon Promises of Security, surrendered himself into the Hands of the Viceroy.

The Rest of the Nordwegian Army, who scorned to follow the Examples of their King, in his Flight, retreated in good Order, and shut themselves up in Drontham ; where, they stood a long Siege, defended themselves with great Bravery, and at length, made a most honourable Capitulation ; by which, they provided for the Safety and Security of the Lives, Liberties and Properties, not only of the Garrison, but of all the Nordwegians then bearing Arms in Support of their King Christiern, and made a sensible Provision for the Freedom of their Posterity.

While these Articles were just ratifying, Frederick, with a Fleet and some Land Forces arrived in Nordweg. The principal Men in the Country came and declared their Fealty to him. But, he received them but coldly ; as if he had rather conquer without their Aid, or have had them to include in the Number of the Conquered. Moreover, he gave his Viceroy to understand, that he did not think himself or his Successors bound by any of his premature Promises to Christiern, nor by his untimely Capitulation with the Rebels, as he called the Followers of that unhappy Prince. Whereupon, he ordered Christiern to be closely imprisoned in the Castle of Sunderburgh. But, upon the dejected Tyrant's Submission and Resignation of all Tittle to the Crown ; he was removed to a Prison somewhat less confined, the Castle of Callenburgh ; where, notwithstanding some faint and ineffectual Struggles for his Restoration, in the next Reign, he died a Prisoner, about the Year 1559. Leaving an infant Son, who was afterwards taught to make Pretensions to his de-throned

throned Father's late Dominions. Thus ended the Tyranny of the Nero of the North.

Frederick paid no greater Regard to the Capitulation; for he seized the Estates of most of the Adherents to his Predecessor, imprisoned some and put others to Death; upon the bare Authority of his Proclamation, which could not by any Rule of Reason have the Force of a Law in a Country, where he was not yet legally called to the Throne or acknowledged King.

Christiern having yet some Friends in different Parts of the States, neither Frederick or his Successor thought it prudent to exert their natural Dispositions to absolute Power. Each, it is true, forgot the Obligations, he owed the free States; who, regardless of the Rules of Succession, that had for some Reigns prevailed, called them to the Throne. But, they could not forget the Example made of the late Tyrant and his unoffending, inoffensive Offspring; the one kept a Prisoner, the other, to deprive him of Means to annoy the State, justly reduced to Beggary.

Frederick for these Reasons thought it best to keep well with the Danes, though he never loved them, and could not help shewing his Dislike by spending the greatest Part of his Time in his hereditary Country, Holstein; of which the Danes unavoidably shewed some Jealousy, in Time.

In one Thing, among others, this King shewed, his Propensity to Arbitrary Power was not inferior to that of any of his Predecessors. Under some of the former Reigns, the People found nothing more injurious than the Influence, which the two last Kings gained over the several Tribunals by the Appointment or removal of their Presidents at Pleasure. They judged this a fit Time to correct the dangerous Evil; not suspecting, that a King who owed his Be-

ing to the People's Sense of Freedom, could deny them any Means of preserving it for the Future.

It was therefore proposed in the Diet, that the Presidents of the several Courts should be made independant on the Crown, by securing them their Employments with Stated Salaries by Patent during good Behaviour.

This Proposal gave the King great Offence. He gave the Diet to understand, that he accepted of their Crown upon the same Terms, on which his Predecessors held it. That he came among them at great Expence and Hazard to rescue them from the Tyranny of Christiern, and if they thought of abridging any of the Prerogatives of the Crown in him ; they should find themselves mistaken : That rather than submit to these Terms he would return with his Army and Fleet and leave them as he found them at the Mercy of Christiern, who was yet alive and had Friends enough to Re-instate him.

This could not fail of terrifying the States, who judged the Cruelties of Christiern would prove more unsufferable than ever, if he should be restored. So they for the present dropped their Proposal, to wait for a more favourable Opportunity, which offered soon after ; when the King wanted Supplies to prepare for a War with the Oldenburghers, Lubeckers and some other neighbouring States, who were ready to attack him. It was then the Diet took the Advantages of the King's Necessity, and having given him to understand, that they would grant no Taxes, till their Proposal with regard to the Independancy of the Presidents of the Courts should be received and affirmed ; he was forced, with much Reluctance to comply with their Demands.

Matters being now very quiet in Denmark, and a great Number of the People generally satisfied with the Conduct of their King and thankful for their Deliverance from the late Tyranny, to which, they looked

looked upon him as materially instrumental; they now sought to turn him against the unhappy Objects of their Jealousy, the Nordwegians, regardless of this People's having been so useful in defeating the Tyrant Christiern and his Armies and Followers.

Frederick was now possessed of the Crowns of Danemarch and Nordweg. He had the Misfortune of being necessitous. He ordered the States of Nordweg to be Assembled and demanded a Sum of Money of them towards defraying the Expences of the Fleet and Army, he sent to defend their Rights.

The Diet as well as the People at large expressed the most grateful Sense of the Services, the Protection he afforded them; pleaded, with great Truth and equal Grief, their extreme Poverty, which rendered them at that Time utterly incapable of raising any Supplies, and made it difficult to get even the common Necessaries of Life for themselves; but gave the fullest Assurances of their good Intentions; as the best Earnest of which, they past an Act, acknowledging the Justness and Legality of his Title to the Crown of Nordweg.

The King, whose Temper was none of the Best, was highly enraged at this Disappointment; and, without considering the Condition of the Country, not yet recovered from the Ruins and Desolations of the late War; contracted such an Aversion to the People, as ended but with his Life; though without them, he had not found the Conquest of Christiern and the Possession of Nordweg so easy. This was the more ungenerous, as this People not only loved the King, best of any of his Subjects, but even to this Day, adore his Memory.

Of this, he gave many Proofs; the Chief of which were his rejecting their Act of Election or Recognition with Contempt and Indignity, and his passing a Law, at the Instigation of the jealous Danes, and, as some say, in Consideration of a Sum of Money

by them granted, whereby the little Commerce of the Nordwegians was in a most unnatural, unjust manner restrained and obstructed. Of which, mark the immediate Consequence.

Before this Law, Danemarch and Nordweg furnished the greatest Part of Europe and some other Countries with Train Oil, Parimacy, Whalebone and dried Fish for Sea Provisions, &c. The greatest Part of this Trade centered in Danemarch ; Nordweg had but a moderate Share of it, which was not likely to be much extended.

But, small as their Share was, it gave the jealous Danes Offence, and they judged, if they could but restrain or obstruct it, the whole Trade would fall into their Hands. This they laid before the King, whom they found Means to bring to so good an Understanding of their Scheme ; that he ran zealously, violently into it, and got a Law proposed, in the Diet of Danemarch, enacting, that for the future, no Fish-Oil, Whalebone, or dried Fish shall be sent out of Nordweg in any Native or foreign Bottoms, except by Permission of the States of Danemarch, to such Ports of that Kingdom, and in such Proportions, as it's Diet shall now or from Time to Time, hereafter direct. Here began the most dangerous Tyranny ; such as bore the Semblance of Law ; with which the late Tyrant had not the cunning to cover his violent Measures.

Fish at this Time made the principal Article in the Trade of that poor Kingdom. And as the People were poor, living remote from the Court, which likewise attracted their Nobles and other opulent Men from them ; they were forced to work at a cheaper Rate, and consequently could somewhat undersell the Danish Fishermen, who were more rich and now beginning to be Luxurious. What unheard of Cruelty, to rob them of the common Benefits of Nature ? Their sole visible Means of Subsistence ? But nothing

thing less than their utter Ruin could please the Danes ; not seeing that they were involved in the same Fate.

The Nordwegians now knew the malignant Danes, too well to doubt their being capable of doing any Thing to oppres or tyrannise over them, be it ever so iniquitous. They could not at first believe the King could be base and wicked enough to assent to such an unjust, injurious Law. But, though they found it but too true ; it hardly abated of their Gratitude or their Veneration of the Man, whom they had now taught their Children to look upon as their Deliverer.

However, they looked upon it as nugatory ; as they naturally thought, they were by no Means to be bound by any Law, to which they had not given their Consent. So they went on with their Trade regardless of the Prohibition.

The King, being informed of this, ordered several small Ships to be built and armed. These, from their Employment, were called Fishers. They were ordered to Cruise on the Coast of Nordweg and its Isles, to search every Ship sailing from their Ports, and to seize and confiscate every Ship, which should be found to carry more of the prohibited Nordwegian Commodity, than was barely necessary, to support her Crew on their Voyage. Judge how well this became a Man, that would be thought the great Deliverer of his Country.

At the first setting out of these Fishers, Numbers of trading Families were ruined by the Seizures made. The Fishermen were reduced to Beggary, getting none but an insufficient home Consumption for their Fish. To avoid starving at Home, these poor Men were forced to fly their native Country and hire themselves as Sailors to all the trading Countries, but chiefly to the next to them, the Dutch and English. To these, they soon taught the Art of Fishing, which has since been brought to such Perfection, in these

these and other Countries, that most that are contiguous to the Sea, are now so far become Masters of the Business of Fishing, that they furnish themselves, and even others, with the Products of all the Northern Seas ; so that the Trade is not only losted to the Nordwegians by the Cruelty and false Craft of their Oppressors ; but the Danes, these shameless, infatuated Tyrants, soon after, deservedly suffered the same Fate.

How happy, how honourable, how great is it, if the thinking find, that such horrid, iniquitous Measures were never dealt out by a British King or Legislature to any of the Dominions of our Crown ? And that, on the contrary, all Parts are encouraged to extend their Trade and make the most of all the Products of Nature and Art, within the Country ? Well knowing that the Riches of the remotest Territories are but a Part of the Funds of the Whole, which either circulate or center in, the Mother Country ? To this good Policy, it must be owing, if it be found, that none of our Artisans have fled into foreign States, to the Prejudice of our Manufactures or Commerce. Under a Government, so wisely, so justly, so equally administered as ours is, and always must be, no Evils like these that have fallen upon Nordweg and Danemarch are, by any Means, to be apprehended. But, destroying Trade alone could not satisfy the Danish Tyrants : Nordweg must fall. And fall indeed she did ; though hardly alone.

In the Reign of Frederick, great Encouragement was given to the appealing from the supreme Judicature in Nordweg to that of Danemarch. Several Danish Lawyers, instructed for the Purpose, were sent over, who undertook the Success of Suits for a proper Premium. Many of these amassed great Fortunes, and soon after purchased Places and Honours in the State ; for all was now Venal in these corrupt States. ~ They regarded not what side of the Question they

they took. They had what Dispatch was possible in the Determination made ; not regarding whether the Judgment went for or against their Clients. They knew an effectual Way of securing the Success. If a Decree happened to go for them, it was well ; if not, why very well. It was but appealing, and for the Encouragement of such Appeals, the supreme Judicature in Danemarch, for many Years, till they judged their Jurisdiction over that of Nordweg, by long acquiescence confirmed ; never failed of Decreeing, with exemplary, dreadful Costs, in favour of the Appellants. But, this beneficial Trade for the Lawyers did not last long : It was soon learned by the Suiters ; who now disregarded the Issue of any Suit there ; looking only for the Decree and contending who should first Appeal. But when the Danes found themselves indisputably possessed of the Power ; other Measures took Place : Faction or a Bribe directed soon after the Determination of this, and of every Court, in Danemarch.

But not content with establishing this miserable dependence of Nordweg upon Danemarch ; several Acts were made in the Danish Diet to bind the Nordwegians without their Consent, and often made without their knowledge ; particularly with regard to the Disposal of the Lands seized, upon the Placart of Frederick, while yet to the Nordwegians, but Duke of Holstein.

Though Nordweg was by these Means visibly broken and undone ; Danemarch was not so safe as this infatuated People imagined : Since Margaret's Days, in which they seem to have been at the Zenith of their Glory ; they have been declining, by quicker or slower Degrees, to the Reign of Frederick the third, in which Time, the Measure of their Iniquity being filled, they were reduced, or rather as by a Decay of Nature, without any visible outward Force or Cause, fell into the shameful Slavery, under which they

they have since groaned, which may be considered as the political Death of the State. The fatal Distemper had now assailed her, and what made it more terrible, the People were not sensible of it, till at the stated Time becoming incurable, Death must inevitably have ensued.

At this Time, the State of Danemarch went upon Crutches. Nordweg was one of her chief Supports. Had the proper Use been made of her, Danemarch could never have fallen. But, Nordweg was not only thrown away, but destroyed, rendered useles to herself, of Course to her Neighbour and Sister. The fall of the One, was necessarily attended with that of the Other. What protracted this fall, and how, remains next to be related. Who does not rejoice, who finds, that no such destructive wicked Measures were ever taken against any Part of the Dominions of Britain?

Frederick having prepared the Way for the Reformation of Religion, by having early embraced the Augsburg Confession, the whole Body of the non-reformed Clergy set themselves openly or secretly against him. So that there were divers Plots contrived against his Life and Government, which ended only in giving him the stronger Aversion to the Romish Clergy, and in laying Schemes for curtailing the exorbitant Power of their Bishops. He died before he could complete his Projects, in the Year 1533, leaving his Son Christiern III. to succeed him on the Throne, and finish the good Works, his Sire had began.

This King ascended the Throne, not without great Difficulty. By the Contrivances of the Clergy, a Party for the late deposed King was kept up in all Parts of the Danish Dominions. They judged the late King's Death a favourable Opportunity to attempt a Restoration. With these, the Oldenburghers and Lubeckers joined, pretending to have but the same Views, when in Fact the Prince of the former,

Earl

Earl Christopher, had such as were entirely selfish, and which he only covered with this Pretence.

Several Provinces were by artful Insinuations and Stratagems of the Bishops and Clergy, gained over to declare for the imprisoned and dethroned King. And, contrary to what was at first apprehended, the Matter wore so serious a Face, as to require the Assistance of Gustavus King of Sweden, before it could be set to Rights. This King neither loved the Clergy nor their Tool of a King. He therefore declared for Christiern III; and marched an Army to his Assistance; at the Sight of which, the Malecontents and their pretended Allies fled and desisted; so that the King was settled peaceably on the Throne.

As soon as he found his Authority established, he banished the Clergy that were fomenters of this Rebellion, and deposed all the Bishops. And soon after rooting out Popery, he established Lutheranism in its Place, both in Danemarch and Nordweg. After this, he lived beloved, reigned peaceably and happily, upon his Father's Plan, and died much lamented about the Year 1558; the Danes never attempting a Reformation of their lapsed Government!

It is easy, even in this short sketch of the political History of these Kings, to see a variety of Blots in their Escutcheons. The greatest of which is their following the Plan, upon which some of the worst of their Predecessors ruled, where they judged it necessary for their private Purposes. They endeavoured at obtaining an undue Influence in the Courts of Judicature; in which, they were in some Measure foiled, but sometimes succeeded. They gave one Kingdom an unjust Preference to the other; not by making one the particular Place of their Residence; for that might have been necessary; but in an unequal Distribution of Laws, as well as royal Favours, in robbing one of it's Trade, by which the other came to lose it in the End; and above all in making not only the ordinary Courts

Courts of Judicature but even the Diet of one Kingdom shamefully, iniquitously subservient to those of the other ; making two Legislatures Clash, and subjecting the People of one Kingdom to two Masters, whose Commands were diametrically the Reverse of each other.

Had such an abominable Solecism in Government been made in Britain, what Distraction would it not occasion in the Minds of Men of a tender Sense of Freedom and Justice ? But happily the most insensible and unthinking are well assured, that nothing like it can be charged upon such Wise and Virtuous Administrations as ours are, ever have and ever shall be found.

Though all these Measures not only tended to the Subversion of Government, but in these States must have actually, for the Present, suspended, if not overturned, the Government ; these Kings did not Content themselves here, but gave the political Constitution more subtil, more deadly Poison.

In the Reigns of these two Kings, which may well be coupled, from the Similitude of their Tempers and Administrations ; the Freedom of Election of Members of the Diet was first oppenly attempted ; for, the Influence of the Crown, in the Appointment of the returning Officers, was not alone used ; but the Electors themselves were hardily bribed in the Face of the Sun, without Shame or Remorse. And as the People now began to get some Taste of Luxury, which created them Wants, unknown to their honest Ancestors ; this horrid, destructive Scheme of Corruption, had long since completely overturned the Constitutions of both Kingdoms, had not the Necessities of the Crown happily postponed the Evil. Here however, the Plan was laid, which succeeding Ministers of Iniquity improved upon ; by shewing that the most effectual and cheap Method was to let the Elections go as they might, but to secure the Elected by Bribes

Bribes of one Kind or other. How far this succeeded we shall have Occasion to relate, before the general Fall of Danemarch.

How will the Sons of Britain, in these distinguished Days of her Rigteousness and Renown, be able to conceive any Men capable of these cardinal Iniquities? What Credit can the most authentic Historian expect, that is not inspired, when he relates a Detail of such horrid Crimes as are not yet known or even conceived in Britain? Men, who, from the Lowest to the Highest, prove themselves, in every Part of their political Oeconomy, void of all Appearances of sordid, mercenary or selfish Views; who detest Corruption of every Kind, as they despise its Wages, can not be supposed to believe these like Narrations, or be in any wise effected by them. Since then, Britons are so happily placed out of the Power of such Temptations, beyond the Reach of Suspicion of Guilt; let them wisely pursue their Amusements, dissipate all Care and Thought of the Public; and if they can not, as surely they hardly can, believe these Things; let them serve for their Diversion, like so many Novels; while I pursue my Tale with the same Intentions with which I set out. Farewell!

YOURS, &c.

LETTER IX.

Relating the Corruption and consequent Slavery of other neighbouring States, as well as of Danemarch.

IF I have not till now amused you and raised your Curiosity to come to the End of my long Story, in which I shall open more Scenes of Corruptions on every side of You, stop here; but let me, to give Vent to my own Choler, pursue my Narrative, though like Persons in some genteel Countries who have but the Sexton and the Clerk to address or pray

pray for, I may get but the Compositor and Corrector of the Pres^s to read my Lucubrations.

In the last Century, the Government of France began to lose Ground. It was originally a free Gothic State, established by the Franks, a People of Franconia in Germany, who changed its antient Name of Gallia or Gaul, to that which it now retains Francia or France.

For several Centuries, they preserved their Freedom, were governed by their particular and general States, and kept their King to the primitive Institution, which was no more than the President of their Councils and the Executioner of their Laws in Times of Peace, from whose Influence and directive Power, he could claim no Exemption ; and the General of their Armies in Times of War.

Had there been no Wars, this People might have still retained their Freedom. But to carry on Wars, whether offensive or defensive, armed Men must be employed. These, whether Native or Foreign, Mercenary or Free at first ; if kept long on Foot, contract a kind of Ferocity, an Aversion to all Power, but that Despotic one that rules them ; learn to hold the Civil Society and it's Authority in Contempt ; set themselves in Opposition to it, and seldom fail in Time of overturning the most Free and powerful State. This, about this Time, became the Fate of France, whose Kings from an elective and limited Monarchy, made themselves by Degrees, Hereditary and Despotic, turned a Civil into a Military Government, consequently made all the free Subjects of popular Laws, Slaves, whose Lives, and Liberties and Properties were now dependent on the Breath of the Monarch.

What an horrid Change! But, why should I say horrid ? It never affected Britain, whose Sons are so Free, so Happy, that they can hardly entertain an Idea of the Wretchedness of Slavery abroad. It affected

affected not the Danes ; for they wantonly run on in the same Course ; regardless of the Warning. They went even further ;

Absolute Power has a Charm, that none but great Souls are able to resist. The Brilliancy of a Court, whose Head is looked upon but a few, if any, Degrees below Almighty ; who holds all the Treasure of the Nation, all the Employments of the State ; yea, the Lives and Fortunes of all the Subjects in his Hands, must attract the Admiration of the undiscerning Multitude, and few, too few are found capable of making the proper Estimate of these Matters.

Few such were found in France, and fewer still in Danemarch. The Adoration paid the Power of the Monarch of France, was an Object looked upon with Envy and longing Emulation by every King in Europe,—if we except ours.—It was evidently the Case in Danemarch. The Titles of Honour, the Places, the Pensions, the Estates in the Monarch's Gif, and not less, the splendid Figures, I mean of the Dress, of his Courtiers, made most wish such Powers in their King ; where, if only as in a Lottery, they may sometimes hope for a better Share, than in a dull Common-wealth, where Merit alone could demand or hope for Honours or other Promotion.

As the Danes lost a Sense of the Happiness of their Government, and the public Spirit, necessary to Support it ; the Customs, Manners, and in Time, the Policy of France, were all introduced into Danemarch ; where, all in their Turns were established. The Aversion to the French Government was gradually softened and diminished by the Governors, and as fast introduced. But, Dress and Fashion led the Van. It was received and admired at Court, and the Multitude soon followed their Leaders. Not a Gentleman or Lady could now appear at Court, or in any genteel Assembly, that were not clothed and dressed by French Taylors and Milliners ; and many a

Courtier and a Lover lost their Suits, for want of having their Beards or Whiskers accommodated in the gallant Taste and mode of France.

These despicable Trifles, ever happily below the Attention of Britons, now became Matters of Moment, in Danemarch. The strict Modesty, the frozen Chastity of the Northern Danes, began now to give Way to the easier and politer Customs of France. And Patriots were more solicitous about the now courtly Dress and Manners, than in furnishing their Heads with just Notions of Liberty and the Constitution of their Country, or arming their Hearts with Fortitude to maintain them. Then, the French Language was found to have a Charm irresistible. One sweet sounding French Word was judged more comprehensive, than a whole Phrase of vulgar Danish. And he that could not speak some French, if it was but an unmeaning Word thrown now and then into Conversation with an affected Grace; was reckoned but rude and unbred.

Nordweg at this Time had her Destruction well nigh compleated. She had lost her Liberty, lost her Trade; and most of her industrious Sons, to avoid starving at Home, were forced to seek Livelihoods among Strangers. In Times of such Calamity, all that had Fortunes to support them abroad, fled toward the Court. Some few however remained, and this Remnant lived. A home Trade and Consumption was sufficient for a few, and some of these must sometimes have made, what in their Estimation in Nordweg, was a Fortune.

Thus the Remnant of the Nordwegians might yet have survived the Tyranny, escaped in some Measure, the dire Effects of the political Views of the Danes, had not their moral Vices, swept them off like a raging Pestilence.

The broken Nordwegians, being made easy in their For-

Fortunes, were no longer to be contented with the simple Manners and Customs, plain Dress and Diet of their Country, but they must in all Things affect to ape the Danes, who were themselves but now become the awkward Apes of France. Thus the Nordwegians, as they got a little Riches, got a Taste of the Luxuries of Danemarch, and greedily swallowed down their growing Vices, at second Hand. These grow in every uncultivated Soil. And thus, what a Series of bad Policy, seconded by tyrannic Power, was unable to effect, readily gave Way to the combined Force of Luxury, Immorality and Folly. Oh! That the rest of the Sons of Men had followed the instructive, the illustrious Example of our Britain, in standing firm Proof against the evil Customs, Manners and Policy of corrupt, enslaved neighbouring States!—But away from home, and to our History.

Upon the Death of Christiern III. his Son, Frederick II. was called to the Throne, about the Year 1560. Great Hopes were conceived from his good Understanding, Humanity, Liberality and Valour. And had he been left to the Dictates of his own magnanimous Heart, the public Expectations most certainly had not been frustrated. His Integrity kept him clear of Suspicion: He thought every Man honest about him, and this made him sometimes repose Confidence, where he should not.

During the Reigns of his Father and Grandfather, two violent Factions arose, and about this Time, divided and rent the State. The one zealously contended for Christiern II. and his Family; the other asserted the Rights of the People to depose a Tyrant, expel his Issue and call a fitter Prince to hold the Reigns of Government, to preserve and maintain the liberties of the States. No Briton will think this extraordinary.

But neither of these Factions long held the Principles, upon which they were raised and supported. Each however took and retained the Nick-name given it in Contempt by the other. The first were distinguished by the Name of the Glummers or Glumis, the second, by that of the Glymmers, Glimmers or for Shortnells, Glims; Appellations, whose original Meanings, I could never learn. But, they served as a kind of watch Word, by which each Party should be distinguished, and in Time, were made to bear very opposite Meanings; by a Glummer was understood, a Man that would rob the Public, murder the Constitution of his Country, to raise a Tyrant to Rule over it with despotic Sway; by a Glim or Glym, for it was differently written, a zealous Advocate for the public Liberties, one that dare lawfully oppose Arbitrary Power to the utmost, and rather than suffer his Country to be enslaved, dare plant a Dagger in a Tyrant's Heart, though he had been his best Friend and Benefactor.

These were the Names, by which these Factions chose to be distinguished. It is not to be doubted, that each set out upon these opposite Principles. But, it is as certain, that neither retained it's Import long; that they served but as Masks for Knaves or Fools; under which, they might lurk Secure, or stir up a Party to assist in gaining their private Views, for which any of them would at any Time change Sides; and that in Process of Time, these most opposite Parties entirely changed Names and Principles, if any they had; Glummers becoming Glims, and Glims, Glummers.

The Glummers gave all the Opposition they could to the Succession of Frederick, thinking this a fair Opportunity of reviving their Claims for Albert, the Son of Christiern II. who died the Year before King Frederick's Accession to the Throne. To this, they were the more instigated, by finding, the King had

had disappointed the Hopes, some of the leading Men had entertained, of being called into the Senate or some of the great Offices of the State, by the new King. But these vanishing, upon the King's happening to continue the Court much as his Father left it, which was chiefly in the Glyms; the Glummers determined to give all the Disturbance and Trouble possible; which went no farther then putting the King under the Necessity of raising more Troops, and making new Alliances; which put the Nation to a considerab'e Expence; for which, the Diet was forced to impose new Taxes. Nordweg was forced to raise proportionable Levies; and thus began the national Debt, before unknown in these frugal States, and which afterwards proved one of the concurring, if not of the principal Causes of their Downfall.

The Effects of the rebellious Labours of the Glummers reached no farther than the Borders of the King's Territories. Both Danemarch and Nordweg remained quiet, and the far greater Part of the People of both Kingdoms gave the utmost Proofs of their Allegiance and pure Affection to Frederick.

The Disaffected were however able to raise Jealousies against the whole Royal Family, and to cause some Commotions in Holstein, where the Datmarians put themselves under Arms and took the Field in an hostile and rebellious Manner. The King sent an Army against them, which shortly subdued them and brought them back to their Allegiance.

But this Stroke, insignificant and light as it may appear, in it's Consequences, greatly concurred to the cutting short the Thread of Life of the Liberties of Danemarch.

The King finding the Affections of his favourite Subjects of Holstein likely to be alienated from his Family, by his necessary Absence from them; thought it the best Expedient, to send his eldest Son Christiern, the hereditary Duke of Holstein, to be educated

cated and live among them, till he should be called to the Throne.

This produced the desired Effect ; the Holsteiners were appeased and satisfied. They did not doubt making such an Impression upon their young Prince, that he should strongly retain his Affections for his hereditary Country. For this, all Ranks artfully laid themselves out, and succeeded to their Wishes. The Prince grew up to Manhood, in all Respects an Holsteiner. He was flattered in his Vanities, which indeed were not many. He loved Power and was so well instructed in the Difference betwixt an hereditary Principality and an elective Crown ; that he envied not his Father the Sceptre he held, and would then have sat down contented with his Holstein.

This could not escape the Observations of the jealous Danes, among whom there were many Malecontents, as well as the Glummers, who wished for nothing more than to make the Family of Holstein hated, in hopes of bringing in Albert, the Son of the late deposed King.

This evil Spirit was so artfully and universally fomented, that in some Time, the Glims as well as the Glummers began to be affected, though from very different Motives : The later wished to render the Family of Holstein hateful and get them cut off ; the Glims wished to correct whatever was found wrong, and perpetuate the Crown in a Family, the best Qualified and the most likely to maintain the Liberties of the States, or the Remnant of them : For, little more than the Form of Government was now left ; which the People were in general too stupid to perceive.

Those of the former Faction, that had Seats in the Diet, finding a Discontent arising among those of the later, for the Prince's too great Fondness for the Dutchy of Holstein ; thought it a fit Opportunity for making some Motions to provide a Successor to the

the Throne in Case of the Death of the present King. They were much encouraged by finding no Opposition from the Glims, who seemed to be equally Satisfied of the Necessity and timeliness of making such a Provision. The Glummers mentioned several Princes related to the preceding Kings, none of which were agreeable to the Generality. Some were hardy enough to propose the Son of Christiern II. But, the Objections to admitting the Son of the Tyrant, who by his horrid Scenes of Iniquity forfeited, like any other Traitor, for himself and his Issue, were too strong to admit of much Debate. His foreign Education in Arbitrary Governments; his early imbibed Hatred and Enmity to those who were Instrumental to the deposing his Father; his being grounded in a System of Religion subversive of the present Establishment, and above all, his laying an hereditary Claim to the Crown, were all displayed in such a Light, as shewed the most insensible and perverse, what horrible Things were to be expected from the admitting a Man of this Stamp to hold the Reigns of Government.

These being established, an Expedient was proposed, to which each Faction, after some Debate, agreed; though upon different Motives: It was moved, that the Duke of Holstein, the King's eldest Son, should be declared Prince of Danemarch and Successor to his Father in the Throne; with this Provision, which was couched in the strongest Terms, that whosoever the said Duke of Holstein should succeed to the Throne, he should never leave the Territories of the Crown of Danemarch, without the Consent of the States in Diet convoked. And if he departed the Kingdom, without such Consent of the States, that he should be, *Ipsa Facto*, degraded and deposed.

The Glims moved this as the best Security to the Successor of the Allegiance and Affection of the People, and to the People of the Removal of all

Cause of Jealousy, such as Frederick the First often gave by his Absence; by obliging the King to reside within his regal Dominions, the most important Part of his Charge. The Glummers, finding they could not gain the wished for Ends, agreed to this; upon a Presumption, that neither the Duke nor the King his Father would accept of the Terms; or if they did, that the Prince would find the Restraint so heavy upon him, when he should come to the Throne; that he would find some Means of breaking or evading it; and so give them another Opportunity of Fishing in troubled Waters. And the King, thinking it just to give the Subjects every reasonable Satisfaction and just Security, cheerfully past a Bill with these Provisions into a Law; the Non-observance of which was another of the many fatal Wounds, given Danemarch, before the vital Parts were reached.

Had such a Law as this been made in Britain, who would not have looked upon it as sacred, as a fundamental Part of the Constitution, never to be altered, till the Succession could no longer run in that Channel? None but Slaves and Parricides, Enemies to their Country and their Prince. If our Enemies could shew such Blots in our Annals, such stains in the Characters of King and People, what free Briton could withhold Blushes or Tears? Let it not be thought of: We have loved our Kings too well, to suffer them, if they could, to transgres. They have been too wise and just to attempt it; or, if it were possible to be orherwise, they had found our Parliaments too watchful not to warn and council them; too faithful to their Trust to give up any Thing, inconsistent with the Honour and Interest of the King and People; which ever have been, as they now are and ever shall be, mutual and inseparable. But, what have You or I to do with these Considerations? Let us then quit them for Something or any Thing,

Thing, in which we are less concerned. Till that
offers, Farewell!

YOURS, &c.

LETTER X.

*Being a continuation of the Diseases, that brought on
the Death of Danemarch.*

AS the Nordwegians were not now looked upon as concerned in any Affairs of Government ; they were never consulted in these Matters. However, they were not yet denied the Liberty of talking on these Subjects, any where, but in their Diet, which was now called once in two or three Years, to grant additional Subsidies to the Crown ; those, they had already wisely granted in perpetuity, being found insufficient to answer the multiplied Exigencies of the State, or the Drafts of the King upon the Treasury, which daily increased most extravagantly.

In some Things, the Nordwegians were allowed great Indulgences : They were permitted to take, and fully to enjoy all the moral Vices, all the Follies, of the Danes. Their Diet, rather than be idle, to fill up vacant Spaces, would do any Thing ; and as, by Gortsman's Law, they could do nothing without the Permission of the King and his Senate in Danemarch ; these wisely prevented their passing any Act, that could do the Country any good ; but gave them a full Latitude to do as much Mischief to themselves and Posterity, as their Vices and Follies could prompt.

However, to save the Crown the Trouble of the scrupulous reading, and rejecting their Bills, as well as to have an Opportunity of gaining some favourite Points there sometimes, without Force or the Knowledge of the Diet of Danemarch ; the King had the same care taken there, as at Home, to influence the Elections

Elections of the Members of the Diet, or to engage them in his Interest, or rather to his Will; which was most easily and effectually done, when they were elected, by Bribes, Pensions, Places or Promises. And the better to prevent the uniting of the People, which might possibly make them too troublesome, if not too strong for their Oppressors; all Diligence was used to divide them and set them at Variance against one another.

This was easily done by propagating a persecuting Spirit for religious Tenets, between those of the New established Religion and those that had retained the Old. This was carried to the utmost Height. The Disputes about Consubstantiation and Transubstantiation causing the Loss of Liberty and Property to many; endless Animosities must necessarily be raised.

And lest the Consubstantiators should have any Union among them; the violent Spirits of the Glims and Glummers were conveyed into this Sect, by a Kind of Transfusion from Danemarch.

Thus, whatever Steps Danemarch made towards Destruction, she made poor Nordweg lead the Way. And has had only this sad and ill-natured Consolation in her Fall; that she, though but for a short while, outlived her Sister Nordweg.

No Prince had reigned with greater Honour and Renown, more to the general Satisfaction of the People, in Danemarch, than Frederick II. did for upwards of twenty Years: For, though he was led now and then, by the Vices of the Times, to run into the Schemes of corrupting the Counsellors of the State; during this Time, they exerted themselves to their own Honour, as well as to that of their King and Country. The Glims all this Time prevailed in the Diets, Senates, Courts of Judicature and most of the other Offices, Judicial or Ministerial, Civil or Military, in both the Kingdoms.

The

The same noble Spirit, that animated the Diets, Senates and Courts, seemed to have diffused itself throughout the Army: For they were every where the Terror of their neighbouring Foes. So that all the States of Europe courted an Alliance with this King.

Had he retained the happy Disposition, that had conducted him thus far through his Reign, with Honour, less sullied than any of his Predecessors had shewn; no King had lived more revered, or died more lamented, than Frederick.

But, no Man more strongly shewed the Unsteadiness and Frailty of human Nature, than this potent Prince. He gave himself up to Indolence; neglected the public Business; was less attentive to Merit; and became at length so besotted, that he could not, or would not distinguish the Friends of his Family and the Kingdom, from their Foes; but bestowed Employments and Honours as freely upon the Glummers as on the Glims.

The Glummers were too watchful of their own Interests to neglect this Opportunity of warming themselves into Favour, and succeeded so far as to gain the Ascendant over the drooping, despoothing Glims.

When Affairs were in this confused State at home, his designing Enemies made War upon Frederick and his Allies. He sent an Army to oppose his Enemies; but they were of a different Mould from those in the first Years of his Reign. They were chiefly composed of Glummers, who were too much in the Interest of his Enemies, and too averse to that of his Allies, to oppose them with that noble military Spirit, which the Danish Soldiers shewed in the former Parts of this Reign. Yea, in one Engagement, the General of the Danes looked on, and suffered the Army of the best Ally of Danemarch to be cut to pieces by her worst and most dangerous Enemy, without striking a single Stroke in their Defence: For,

For, which, it was pretended, he had the King's Orders.

By Measures of this shameful Kind, the King and People of Danemarch lost all the Glory, they had acquired in the first Years of this Reign; and at length, fell into such general Contempt, that they lost all their Allies and were forced to make scandalous Concessions to an insolent Enemy, to obtain an inglorious, an ignominious Peace.

Some Historians assert, that the Basis of this Peace was a secret Article, which was never yet fully proved. It is said, that Frederick, to secure Peace and Quiet for the Remainder of his Days, promised his victorious Enemy to get the Act for the Succession of his Son repealed, and provide for the Accession of Albert, the Son of the dethroned King. The Truth of this Charge will hardly be learned before the Day of Judgment: For, before such an Article could be ratified, the King died; whether of Drunkenness, Shame or Grief, is uncertain; giving Orders to his Secretaries to burn and destroy all Papers relating to this Article.

These Ministers were faithful to their Trust: For, upon Search of the King's Papers, after his Death, no Traces of such an Article was to be found. Yet notwithstanding, some of the Secretaries and principal Officers of the King, who to their Death denied the foul Imputation; fled and lived in the Enemies Country, till the Clemency of the succeeding King pardoned some of them. Their Flight was however attributed by most to no other Cause, than the Consciousness of Guilt.

Another Evil, which this King intailed upon his Country, was the multiplying the Nobility. He created them by the Dozen or the Score, and when he was running his rapid Carrer to Shame and the Destruction of his Country; he was called to render an Account of his Administration to a higher Power,

Power, about the Year 1588, the thirtieth of his ill-conducted Reign.

It is remarkable, that since the regal Power first encroached upon the Popular, there never was Virtue enough in Danemarch to attempt a Reformation. The utmost stretch of their Integrity was to keep, in this Reign, what the preceding King thought fit to leave them, in that ; without rectifying a single Abuse, or making any Provision for the Security of Posterity.

One Point, indeed, they kept, which was often feitly attempted to be wrested from them. In former Times, the Crown of Danemarch had a considerable Estate, sufficient to support it's Dignity and the Honour of the Royal Family. Which made Subsidies unnecessary, except in Time of War. This Estate was squandered by prodigal Kings ; but, though no King had a right to alienate the Crown Lands ; as they were given to Men of Power, the Diet never had the Virtue to reclaim them. These Lands being at length diminished, so far as to make Subsidies always necessary ; various Attempts were made to get them granted in Perpetuity, or to the reigning King, for Life.

To this the Diet could never be induced to consent. But, they did what answered the Ends of the Crown almost as well ; they took upon them to alter the original sacred Constitution of the Realm, which was beyond the Power of the Diet, (being Established by the same Power, that gave them being;) in making the Diet, which was to be elected every Year, continue for Four Years first, and then afterwards for Eight. Which in Time gave wicked Ministers and corrupt People, an Opportunity of overturning the original System of Government ; of which I may give you further particulars at Leisure.

YOURS, &c.

LETTER XI.

Relating some of the deadly Symptoms that preceded the political Death of Danemarch.

HAPPILY thoughtless and insensible, as I found you, if you have been able to give any Attention to the foregoing Letters ; you must now know, if you do not feel, that our most melancholy Scenes are yet to be presented, that they cannot be far off ; but that our Tragedy now draws near to it's fatal Period. Thanks to the Prudence and Probity of our Administration ! The Scene is laid so far from home, that I do not suppose it will affect you, or even your tender Wives or gentle Daughters,

ters, till the Curtain is dropt. Then, whether you will be moved to laugh or to weep, to clap or to his the Actors, Time and the Event alone can shew. As for the Poet, he is quite indifferent whether you applaud or damn the Performance: He sticks close to simple historical Facts, without the Embelishments of Art. While Truth pleases, he cannot offend. And when there is not Virtue enough in the Public to receive and support it; he will in silent Sadness drop his useleſs Pen.

I have, in my former Letters, endeavoured to give you a just Idea of the Greatness and Happiness, laid up in Store for the Danes and Nordwegians, as well as Swedes, by the Excellency of the political Constitution, established in these Kingdoms, as well jointly as separately. But it does not yet appear, that they have had the Sense or Virtue to avail themselves of such Benefits.

Had the heroic Work of Margaret the Great, the Union of Calmar, taken effect, these Kingdoms might have been the Envy as well as Terror of the rest of Europe; while at home, the Subjects must have enjoyed all the Blessings of Freedom and Peace.

But fell Ambition soon broke the Bonds of this Union, separated the Kingdoms; which, for Ages after, were kept in a fluctuating State, now joined, now separated, according to the Lusts and Powers, or Virtue and Weakness of the Princes, that were set to rule over them; till by long continued Wars, they became in Time rude and savage.

Yet such was the Excellency of their System of Government, that till latter Days of Corruption, they never lost sight of it, amidst the various Shocks and Outrages, it suffered by the sacrilegious Hands of Tyrants; but still kept it in View, and revived it, when ever they had the Appearance of Peace; whether the Kingdoms were united or in a separate State.

Thus

Thus the Principles of the Policy of these Nations which were the joint Product of Wisdom and Virtue, were not to be overthrown or effaced by the utmost Force and Violence, that Tyrants could offer. They were often overturned, and for a while, suppressed; but while Wisdom and Virtue held any Place in the Minds of the People, these Principles could not be totally extinguished; but still rose more bright, more powerful after a long Suppression, and gave a glorious Light, that always led Men to Liberty, to Truth, to Happiness.

Wisdom and Virtue then, appear to have founded these, and indeed every other free Form of Government, antient or modern. And it will appear to the Judicious and Considerate, whatever it may to you, who lay no Claim to either; that while these subsisted, no People ever did or ever could have lost their Freedom.

We hear some tender hearted weak People cry out against the Ruins and Desolations wrought by Fire and Sword, all the World over. Multitudes have miserably lost their Lives, but I know not a single State, in Antient or Modern Story, that was compleatly deprived of it's Liberty, by Force alone: For, while one wise and virtuous Man survived, the Ravager's Conquest must have been insecure; the very Tools of the Conqueror must in Time be wrought upon by the irresistible Power of Wisdom and Virtue, while any remained; so that the very Slaves, who ignorantly fought against them, must in Time feel their Influences, turn against their Inslaver, and claim and embrace the lasting Benefits of social Joys, Peace and Liberty; which ever wait upon Wisdom and Virtue.

I carry my Notions of this Matter still farther, and am in my own Mind persuaded, that no regular popular Assembly, antient or modern, was by any Means, ever wrought upon to forsake or neglect the

the Interests of their Country, in a single Instance; while one Man, perfectly acquainted with the Laws of Nature and Reason, conversant with the Constitution and Interests of his Country, and possessed of an Heart above all sordid Views, regardless of all private Concerns, that clash with the Public, held a Seat in that Assembly. I believe it will not often be found, that any Thing iniquitous is done in the most tumultuous Assemblies, in which honest and sensible Men have a proper Influence.

I think, I see many rise to contradict this Position, by producing somebody, they have set up as an illustrious Exception, in their Imagination. Bring forth the Man, and if he does not appear to have some Degrees of Folly or Knavery about him; something to cause a Diffidence even in his Fellows, and make them believe or say, when he speaks for Truth and Liberty with the greatest Energy, that he is far from being serious, and means no more than to give a Proof of his Talents, the better to gain some private Ends. If this be not thus, I shall drop my favourite Position, and think worse of human Nature than I am inclined. But, you will say, 'What is all this to our Purpose? ' We are Strangers to the infamous Characters, you draw. Our Councils are adorned with, not only ' Units, but Tens and Hundreds of the wisest and ' best Patriots you can paint.' True; and long may it be so! And long may you live to think so! Keep your Tempers: I only speak of the Affairs of ancient Denmark, purely for your Amusement.

I well foresee, my History will hardly meet the Credit I could wish. In this wise and virtuous Age, it is not easy to conceive, that such a long train of evil Administration should be laid, and continue for so many successive Reigns. Men of Probability and Sense will naturally conclude, that, the Administration was so corrupt, it was not possible the Government should so long subsist. Agreed; when

once a People run counter to the Principles of their Policy ; then the Government must be suspended, if not overturned. What is most wonderful and incredible in this Case is, that the Government of Denmark, with these and many other Abuses and Corruptions of the Administration, subsisted for two Reigns longer, in Name and Form, when not one of the Essentials of the Constitution were preserved. From the Strength of this political Constitution, the Danes, I suppose, were induced to think it immortal. But, they were too stupid, too insensible or too corrupt to think at all about it ; and it was not possible it should subsist without Care.

If you find the Subject interesting enough, look back and see what Denmark was, when Haquin of Nordweg was called to the Throne ; observe the additional Strength given it by Margaret, after the Death of her Son, when she established the Union of the three Kingdoms, at Calmar. What greater Security could human Wisdom contrive for the Ease and Happiness of the Crown, and the Peace and Freedom of the Subject, than the general System of Policy now established ? See how all this Security was gradually withdrawn, by the Perfidy of a degenerate Race of Kings, and tacitly, indolently, perfidiously given up, by a base, perverse, insensible, corrupt People ; unworthy of any Thing, but what they justly got, Stripes and Bonds !

You have already, or might in my former Letters, have seen the Kings, contrary to express[•] Laws, alienate the sacred Patrimony of the Crown, to gratify their Minions and Agents ; possess themselves of the Appointment of all the considerable Officers in the State ; sacrilegiously seize and squander the public Funds ; multiply the Nobles at Pleasure ; destroy the Balance of the Legislature, and afterwards rob it of it's political Conscience, it's regard to Truth and the Common-weal ; and all this, and perhaps more, that has

has escaped my Memory, as well as your Observation; without any kind of Opposition from the Diet or People.

You saw, or might have seen, the Diet and People of one Kingdom enslaved by the Instigation and Contrivance of the other. And, Oh! horrible Sight! You saw the Diet taking upon them the unwarrantable Power of altering that sacred and invariable Constitution, they were appointed to protect, and subverting it in the great Essential of annual Diets, which they prolonged, first to quadrennial and soon after to octennial Diets. And all this, without Fire or Sword, without any Degree of foreign or domestic Force, and most of it, in Times of the most profound Peace! Where now was the Wisdom and Virtue, that framed and founded this Constitution, and by which alone it was to be supported!

You, who in Spight to your prudent Inattention to your home Concerns, must feel the happy Effects of a Series of wise and virtuous Administrations, by which the national Constitution is kept up in it's pristine Health and Vigour, will think it scarce possible, any Government should subsist after it's vital Streams were thus polluted, and all, that was necessary for it's Support, corrupted.—There wanted nothing now, but a Prince able to purchase them, when they became venal, or one, resolute enough to play upon their Pusillanimity, and compel them to quit their Pretensions to Freedom and give up their all into a despotic Ruler's Hands. How ready they were for either change will appear from the Success, with which the first open and direct attempt to enslave them was attended.

Though the Succession was confirmed to the Prince of Holstein, before the Death of the late King, there were great Commotions in the State at his Death, between the two contending Factions; whose Dis-

putes and Corruptions precipitated the Destruction of the State.

The Glummers did not hesitate at saying, that it was manifestly the Design of the late King to rescind the Act of Succession, to confine his Son to his hereditary Dominions in Holstein, and to get Albert, the Son of Christiern II, declared the Successor; for which they pretended, he had the Concurrence of the People, whose Voice should ever have due Force with the Diet.

The Glims warmly and vigourously contended for the Contrary, and if they could not vindicate the late King from the Aspersion; they thought no Regard was to be paid to his Intentions against a Law, which as it had the Sanction of a free Diet, the Approbation of the People and the legal Assent of the King, they were perswaded, it stood confirmed and recorded in Heaven, and they would use their utmost Might to support it, and see it executed.

Whilst these Disputes run high in every Assembly, in every private Company that met, each Faction did not only labour to raise a Party for their respective Purposes at Home, but sent Messengers of Distinction to each of their Princes.

Albert having been declared by the Diet an Outlaw, and all that should adhere to him or look upon him as a Prince having any Title to the Throne, being declared Traitors; none presumed to declare publickly for him.

But, the Duke of Holstein being declared the lawful Successor, it was not judged perilous to avow him; and therefore, the Glims had him proclaimed in due Form, by the Name of Christiern IV, King of Danemarch, Nordweg, &c.

The Messengers sent for Albert could hardly move him. He had inherited the Pusilanimity of his Father, and the Bigotry of his Mother, and chose to live retired with the Supplies, freely and amply given him

him by those of his Persuasion, and the Title and Honours of a King, rather than give up his Peace and run the Risk of his Life, to please a Faction of a fickle People.

His Unwillingness to put himself at their Head greatly broke and dispirited his Faction, for the present. But, after a while they rallied, and watching their Opportunity, in Time, found a Moment, in which he favoured their Entreaties, in coming privately to raise some Troubles in the Borders of Jutland.

The Messengers that went for the Duke of Holstein did not find him much rejoiced at the proffered Succession to the Danish Throne. He was quite contented with his hereditary Country. He had improved it in general, built a Palace, more commodious than magnificent; he loved, and was beloved by, the People, to whom his Will was now a Law. And he did not relish the general Restraints imposed on the Prince of a limited Monarchy, and least of all that, that obstructed his visiting Holstein at his Pleasure.

However, when he considered, upon the Remonstrances of the Messengers, the extreme Regard the Diet and People manifested for him and his Family; the Dangers of civil Wars and of the Subversion of their civil and religious Liberties, to which they must be exposed upon his Denial, and the Hopes given him of taking off all disagreeable Restraints; he consented, set out for Danemarch, arrived there amidst the loudest Acclamations of the People, and was crowned King with all the usual Solemnities in the Year 1587.

This Prince, while he was Young and incapable of choosing for himself, was persuaded to marry a Princess of the House of Saxony. They did not live happily together. And when they were but a few Years married, she died, leaving him one Son. Partly from a Diffidence in the Danes and some Suspi-

cions of their inconstancy, and partly through some Deficiency of parental Love, the King judged it better to leave his Son under proper Governors in Holstein, than bring him with him into Danemarch.

Christiern IV, was a Man of good natural Parts; but of a contracted Education. The Holsatians thought the surest Way of ingrossing his Affections was by confining his Knowledge of the World within the narrow Limits of that little mean Principality. He was well versed in their Laws, Customs, and Interests, and gave them due Attention. He had a noble Spirit and an honest Heart. He loved Money and Power, rather too well. But, when he laid out the one, as he sometimes did, for the Purchase of the other; he was not often observed to abuse his Bargain. He religiously kept his Promises to all Men, and was strictly just in all Parts of his Conduct. This was his Character in Holstein.

Had this Prince, with his good natural Parts and Dispositions, been a little better instructed in the Ways and Laws of other Nations, and that in particular, whose Crown he was in Time to bear, and been set at the Head of a wise and virtuous People; there is no Doubt, that he would have made one of the best, the greatest Characters in History.

But, he was called to govern a degenerate Race of Men, who had almost lost Sight of the Principles of their Policy, or had not the Virtue to assert or maintain them; who had no Sense of Liberty, but Insolence and Licentiousness; and who were so immoral and irreligious, that every Vice that could bring a Curse upon a State or deform human Nature, were daily practised, where they did not readily fall under the Lash of the Law; a People, among whom Religion was decried by those that were appointed to propagate it, and Places, Civil, Ecclesiastic and Military were as publickly sold and bought, as any Goods in the Markets; and among whom, there was hardly

an

an Individual found, that would give his Voice gratis, to elect the worthiest Man a Member of the Diet, or into any other Office, when he could gain any Thing, by giving it to the most unworthy. This is but a short Sketch of the Character of this degenerate People, which this well dispos'd Prince was called to govern.

The Nordwegians were now torn asunder by the same Factions with the Danes. They were long since cut out of all Share in Matters of Government; but had they been consulted, the Glims would have been found to have had all Power there, and consequently, they were pleased with the Choice and Succession of Christiern, nor did the Glummers in that Kingdom ever openly attempt to disturb the Government of him or his Successor in that Realm.

Nothing could have proved more unfortunate, than the contracted Education of this well dispos'd Prince. He came among the Danes, not without much Diffidence and some Dislike to them. He was not now young; it was therefore too late to instruct him. He was bred quite a Stranger to their Government and Laws, consequently unable to hold the Reigns of Government, alone. Therefore, he soon found it expedient, as some of his Predecessors did, to take some of the great Officers of the State into his Confidence, who should direct him in a political Economy, with which he was unfortunately unacquainted.

From this Circumstance, many Misfortunes arose to this declining People. The King could not be acquainted with many, and therefore must have been limited in his Choice. And it was hard, in Case he had made the wisest and best Election, that he should be forced to share his Power with a Subject. But the Case was still worse than this.

He naturally enquired who were the best Friends of his Family, in his Father's Reign, and who appeared most zealous for his Succession in each Estate of the Realm, before his Accession. These being

pointed out to him, he justly continued such of them as possessed Employments under the late King, and promoted others to Places, vacated by his Death. And among these, he chose for his Confidants, such as had most Power and Influence on the Members of each of the four Estates of the Diet.

Had it been possible for this good Prince, among these to have chosen Men of sound Sense and Morals, such as knew and loved the Constitution, and could not be induced to swerve from the Rules of Right; but were actuated by a just Sense of Duty to their King and Country, and would not suffer their united Interests to be separated, by either's gaining an undue Ascendant over the other; Danemarch might have longer survived the many Wounds and Bruises already given her, if not have recovered from them by this good King's Care.

But, this was impossible. Corruption had for some Time been the avowed Measure of every Administration, though it was not yet brought to the Height. Every Individual set up an Interest distinct from, if not opposite to the Public. It can hardly be said with Propriety, that there was such a Thing as a Public; there was no Union, no Society, as heretofore; except some Confederacies in Iniquity, which sometimes past under the Name of Friendships. Not a Man was now to be found, that took a Thought for the Public, further than as he thought himself immediately interested in it. Every Man set up for himself, and few were to be got to do the ordinary Duties of their Stations, without some visible private Benefit. Who would wish to be set to rule such a People? What honest Prince could be fit for the Task?

The King was but ill-qualified to deal with such an abandoned Race as this. But, he happened to light upon Men, well versed in their Ways, and consequently fit to rule Profligates in their own Way. To these,

these, he was forced to submit the whole Œconomy of the regal Office, and they had in Time Craft enough to ingross him to themselves, in Effect to wrest the Reigns of Government entirely out of his Hands ; by depriving him of the Use of his common Senses ; keeping him a Stranger to the State of the People and the Progress of their evil Policy, and yet giving their worst Measures the Sanction of the sacred Name of Majesty.

A Diet was now summoned. And the Elections went on and were made, much as the King's Favourites had directed. The Senate was appointed and all the vacant Commissions and Employments were all filled upon the same Plan.

It is easy to conceive what an Effect such an Administration as this must have produced on the Minds of good Men ; if any such were now to be found in Danemarch. Few indeed of this Cast were to be found, though many out of the States, as well as in them, put on the Semblance of the Character, as Masks, under which they might best hope to gain their private Ends. How happy are you Britons, who know no such Men among you ! Here, let us breath a While and resume the Subject, the next Opportunity.

YOURS, &c.

LETTER XII.

The melancholy Subject of the Ninth continued.

THE Glummers, or as they were now, perhaps for Shortness, called the Glums, were foremost in this Number ; industriously laboured to throw the Odium of all the iniquitous Measures of this Administration upon the innocent Prince, in order to make him hateful, and in Hopes to pave the Way for Albert to succeed.

Since

Since the calling of Frederick I, to the Throne, the two Factions began insensibly to change their Principles. Though the Glums contended for Christiern, and when ever they saw an Opportunity, for his Issue also; they thought it necessary to give the like Opposition to Frederick and his Family, that their Antagonists had given their Patron and his Family. And, on the other Hand, the Glums so far changed Sides, that if it were only in downright Opposition to the Glums, they resolved to strengthen the Hands of their King, by all Ways and Means, even to the giving tacitly, if not avowedly, into such Measures, as they opposed and condemned in his Predecessor. This Disposition continued in each Faction, through all the succeeding Reigns; and nothing concurred more to the Destruction of the States, than these ill-conducted Contests.

Some few Years of the King's reign past over in seeming Tranquility. But, various Causes concurred to raise a Storm, which soon after broke out with some Fury.

The Jealousy of the growing Power of Swedeland, which strongly possessed the Danes, together with some Propensity to claim their King's obsolete Right to the Crown, as under the Union of Calmar, made them, upon some frivolous Pretence, declare War against Charles IX, which was at first, carried on with Success. But, the Scales were turned after the Death of this King of Swedeland, when his Son, Gustavus Adolphus came to the Throne. To him, the Danes were forced to relinquish Elfsburg and Calmar, which they had taken in the late Reign; but not, as it is said, without a large Sum of Money to Christiern.

About this Time, some Troubles broke out in Germany; which, with his strong, natural Desires to visit his Holstein, made the Restraint laid on the King by the Act of his Father, that settled the Succession, sit very heavy on his Mind.

This

This he imparted to his Confidants, who promised to remove his Distress, by getting the States to consent to an Act for repealing the Clause that gave him Uneasiness, in the Act of Succession. Accordingly, Matters were so prepared in the Diet, that the intended Bill past, with inconsiderable Opposition.

It must be confessed, that there were some Members among the Burghers and Paisantry, and some few among the Nobles, who spoke with great Force of Truth and Reason against this Bill. The chief Arguments of the Movers for it, were it's being an unreasonable Restraint, laid upon the Prince, without his Consent; and that it was hard, that he should be denied a Privilege, which the meanest Subject enjoyed, of going out of the Kingdom at his Discretion.

These were answered by shewing the Wisdom and Justice of confining the King to the most Important of his two Offices, his Regal and his Ducal; which was strengthened, by shewing that Governments and Crowns were instituted for the Good of the Governed, rather than the Governors, and that the latter should submit to the former, who must be presumed the best Judges of their own Interests. It was added, that the Restraint now complained of, had in many preceding Reigns appeared necessary; but in none more than this. That that Act being made before the King acceded to the Throne, became an essential, unalterable Part of the national Constitution, the Terms, upon which alone, that Prince could receive the Crown. That he voluntarily submitted to these Terms in accepting the Crown; and therefore, could have no Right to complain of, or to alter, them, without making all such like Securities to the People appear hereafter evasive and nugatory.

Whatever Weight such Arguments might have had with wise, unprejudiced People; they were of none with a Diet under the Influence of a crafty Minister, in luxurious corrupt Times, possessed of the

Keys of the Treasury, and ingrossing his Master's whole Power. Freedom of Speech was all the Liberty, the uninfluenced Members could now boast. They were heard, but unheeded. And when they had nothing more to offer; without attempting a Reply, the Question was put and carried in the Affirmative, by a small Majority in the House of Païsants, somewhat greater, in that of the Burgeſſes, Unanimity, in that of the Clergy, and above three to two, in that of the Nōbles.

The Movers of this Question seeing their Strength, did not confine this Provision for the King's going once out of the Kingdom upon the Consent of the States, as the first Bill seemed to imply; but repealed it entirely for ever, not only for the King, but for his Son, now by another Clause, declared the Successor to the Danish Throne.

Corruption might not yet have been so confirmed, as that such a Change in Government as this Repeal occasioned, could have been so readily wrought, were it not from the perverse Spirit of Opposition, which one party shewed to another.

The Glums wished for nothing more than this Repeal. They had looked for it all along. And perhaps had been the first Movers of the Question, did they not artfully see, that the Glums would make it a Point to carry any Thing against them. They therefore thought it best to foment it privately, by such of their Faction, as were permitted for such Purposes to put on the Mask of Glums. And when it took rise, they gave it a feeble Opposition by way of a Feint; which the Glums perceiving, joined in with the Movers, and so the uncorrupt and corrupt insensibly combining with the Glums, the Question was secured, by a Majority proportioned to the Number of Glums, mistaken Glums and ministerial Members in each House.

Soon

Soon after this, the King made a Visit to Holstein; where he spent some Months, to the great Grief of all sensible and good Men, that loved him and his Family and wished the Freedom and Prosperity of their Country; and to the general open Discontent and Exclamation of his Enemies, who were ready to magnify even Trifles to make the King and his Party odious, as the only Means by which they could hope for Success to their dark Schemes.

The Glums made no small Handle of this in their sowing the Seeds of Discontent and Disaffection. And they soon got many, that were well affected, to join in the Cry. These encouraged the out-lawed Albert to revive his Claim, and think of an Invasion.

Before this took Place, the King returned to his regal Dominions, unknowing and unsuspecting the Designs of his Enemies; his Ministers finding it for their Purposes to keep him as ignorant as possible. The Restraint being now removed, he found himself more at his Ease; began to give some Attention to public Business, particularly to the Encouragement of Commerce, which greatly flourished during his Reign. But, for Matters of Government, those he put in a great Measure out of his Power, by trusting them in the Hands of the crafty Minister, from whom he soon found, they were not to be easily wrested.

The King of Swedeland bearing a secret Enmity to Christiern, now basely, and privily encouraged and assisted Albert to invade the remote Parts of Jutland, promising on his Side to make a Diversion, if necessary. Here, some of the disaffected Nobles and Commons of all the Danish Territories headed an inconsiderable Number of disguised Swedish Soldiers, with a numerous Rabble of disaffected Danes and Jutes. They were not able to make any considerable Progress, before the King called the Diet; which, as soon as assembled, made most loyal Addresses to the

the King, and gave him great Sums of Money, with solemn Assurances to risk their Lives and Fortunes in Defence and Support of his royal Person and Family.

The King having his Coffers filled, and his Hands thus strengthened by the Diet, sent an Army against the Rebels, which in the first pitched Battle compleatly defeated them, slaying Numbers of them and taking many of their Chiefs Prisoners; while their pretended Prince, before the Fate of the Battle could be known, fled and never after ventured to shew himself in any Part of the Dominions of Danemarch.

Yet notwithstanding, his having come once, implied a Possibility of his making an other Invasion. This and the insolent Behaviour of the Glums made the keeping a large Army on Foot, constantly necessary; while all this Faction were constantly enveighing against Measures which their Conduct made so evidently necessary.

This furnished the Ministry with a most plausible Pretext for multiplying Taxes, so that nothing in Time could be found free of heavy Imposts, in Danemarch. But, another Expedient, (which favoured the Schemes of the Minister for raising Money and increasing the national Debt; which he would persuade his Party, would be a Security to the Government, when it was evident, it must, as we shall see it did in the End, prove the Nation's Bane;) was drawn from the late Rebellion: Whenever any great Sum of Money was wanted for any Purpose, it was but spreading a Rumour of an intended Invasion or Insurrection, for the pretended Intelligence of which, immense Sums were paid; and the Diet never failed of granting such Sums of Money as the Minister demanded for these Purposes.

By means of this Kind, the public Debt was accumulated, to a pitch not then heard of in any other Nation, and such as proved in the next Reign the imme-

immediate Cause of the downfall of Danemarch. See how the Glums forwarded, by their Schemes, the Destruction of their Country! Their Conduct caused the keeping Armies on Foot, the increasing the public Debt and the urging their Antagonists to undesigned Extremities.

While the Nation was thus burdened with Debts and Taxes, Danemarch was again drawn into a War with Swedeland. But Matters were in general so ill-conducted, through the Officers of the Army's being composed of Men softened and corrupted by the Luxuries of the Court, promoted by their Interest in the Diet, rather than by their personal Merit; through Succours being unseasonably sent and a Variety of other Mismanagements, that the Swedes were able with a powerful Army to march into Holstein and Jutland, which soon penetrated as far as Schonen, and might have gone much farther, had not the King put himself at the Head of his Army and by his wise Conduct and exemplary Valour, maintained his ground; till by the Interposition of France, a Peace was concluded at Bromsebroo, in *October, 1645.* not without ceding Gothland, Osel and Jumperland to the Swedes, and being forced to let the Dutch, settle at their Discretion, the Tolls of the Sound, in Consideration of the Aids they had afforded.

The People were now so loaded with Taxes, that they could hardly support the Burden. The national Debt was excessive, and exclaimed against by Men of Sense and Friends to the Government; till it got so much in the Mouths of the Malecontents, that Men were ashamed to appear in so hateful a Class. Thus the Violence of the Glums naturally impelled the Glums to the opposite Extreme in all Things.

The present Minister thought to lessen his Burden, by getting the Diets, by an unnatural Law, continued for eight Years instead of one, and by uniting the two Estates of Burghers and Paisants into one House of

of Commons. But, he might now carry any Point in the Diet, which was composed of his Creatures. Corruption was now the avowed Measures of his Administration, and when the just King remonstrated against it, as often as it accidentally occurred to him; he received for Answer, that the Danes would not now do their own Business, much less the King's, without being paid for it. He often endeavoured to make the King believe there was not an honest Man in either Estate of the Realm or in all his Dominions; this the King always heard with Horror and Doubt. But the Minister was able to give an ample Proof of these fatal Truths, by shewing that his most zealous, violent Opponents, such as by their Opposition got a Variety of popular Honours, as well as their Seats in the Diet, were publickly or privately his Pensioners, or Candidates for some Places or Honours in his Gift.

No Wonder this should give an honest King an implacable Aversion to such a corrupt, wretched Nation, and make him pass as much of his Time as possible in Holstein; where the People, being less poisoned with Pomp and Luxury, had yet retained more of their natural Simplicity and Honesty.

The Wickedness of the Ministry daily increased the King's Wants and the People's Wretchedness, and at length, forced him to enter into some shameful Schemes, as injurious to his Honour, as destructive to the Public. These were the setting up Lotteries and various other infamous Modes of Gaming, but especially by instituting a certain gaming Company, under the Colour and Pretence of forming a trading Company, with great Funds and Stocks for carrying on a most advantagious Commerce with particular Parts of the World. Numbers were drawn in, to deposite excessive Sums of Money in these sham Funds, by way of purchasing Stocks, in a Trade that was to bring in most excessive Profit to the Adventurers, which were called,

called, the Tranquebar Company: This was carried on with great Address for a few Years, and many Men made and lost extraordinary Fortunes by buying and selling of this imaginary Stock. Those in the Secret could not lose ; those that were not, were bubbled. At length, when the Fraud was like to be detected and the Cashier or Treasurer's Hands were quite full ; he stopt Payment suddenly and disappeared. This shocked the whole Kingdom, and caused the Ruin of many credulous Families, while those that were in the Secret filled their Coffers. Some openly charged this on the King. Others threw the Infamy soley on the Ministers. Where it lay most justly, is not very clear. But, that neither could be acquitted of it was plain from this ; that the Treasurer lived publickly and sumptuously in Stockholm, in good Harmony with the Danish Ambassador at that Court, and without being ever demanded by that of Danemarch, upon which such an Offender must have been given up. Moreover, his Friends openly solicited the King for a Pardon for him ; which being judged somewhat unpopular, was declined ; promising him, that to wipe the Stain off his faithful Family, his Son should be ennobled. Which promise, upon an Injunction, was fulfilled in the succeeding Reign.

You, who have never heard of any Thing like this before ; whose great Kings, could not stoop to such foul Deeds ; whose Subjects disdain Titles, places of Honour, of Trust or of Profit, inconsistent with Morality, Religion and the Publick Good ; will surely think this fabulous. Think so still. Take this as you list. Rejoice, when you feel *your Withers unwrung*. And exult at finding that the Virtues of King and People have secured your Country from Danger of falling even into Temptation. Fear no evil then. Live secure and

thoughtless of any thing but your Pleasures. Here then to avoid Interruption, let us pause a while.

YOURS, &c.

LETTER XIII.

In which the preceding Subject is continued.

THE iniquitous Measures, which now prevailed in Danemarch, were dealt out to Nordweg, in Miniature, in Proportion. The Dyet was corrupted, altered, and in Effect, perpetuated; the Nobles disgraced; the Public burdened with Debts and Taxes, raised to pay Prostitutes, and the Funds drained daily, without the least Regard to the Authority of the Dyet.

But, not content with this, the fatal, the finishing Stroke was at once given their tottering Constitution. Notwithstanding the great Encouragement given to the bringing Appeals from the High court in Nordweg, to that in Danemarch; many were still determined in the Former, without the Interposition of the latter. Upon this being shewn in Danemarch, the Dyet past an Act taking away all Authority and Jurisdiction from that of Nordweg, and declaring it Subject to, and in all things, dependant upon, the Jurisdiction and Legislature of Danemarch, for ever. And so it remained, till the Constitutions of both Kingdoms were, by such corrupt and tyrannical Measures, at length brought to final Dissolution.

The King lived for many Years after this, and might have completed the Reduction of the one Kingdom, as well as of the other, were it not for two particular Circumstances. The first was, he had, by keeping a Festival instituted to commemorate the Deposition of Christiern II. been Annually put in Mind of that Tyrant's Fate. The second was,

was, though he plainly saw, he had much more Power to establish a Despotism, than Christern or any of his Predecessor's, and such as he judged were more than sufficient, had he held them collected in his own Hand solely ; yet, he well saw, how much he had, at first setting out, shared his Power with his chief Confidant, out of whose Hands, he saw it both difficult to wrest it at any Rate, and most dangerous, if he should fail in the Attempt. Therefore, he thought it most prudent to leave the Administration entirely in the Hands of his Minister, till a favourable Opportunity should offer ; contenting himself with the bare outside Appendages of Majesty, and Liberty to spend as much of his Time as he chose, in Holstein. By which the Minister's Influence was increased, while the King insensibly lost his.

It will be naturally asked, had not this King one Friend to inform him of the State of the Nation, or Sense of the People ? — This is a Blessing, King's rarely, if ever know. Few bear the kindest Offices of Friendship, from their Equals, well. Kings having no Equals are hardly ever to be advised. The Flatterer's Voice alone is heard. These and the Tools of the Minister alone were admitted : and if any were suspected to be Friends to the Country or the King ; care was taken, they should never have Access to the Sovereign's Ear. See the unhappy Fate of Kings ! envy their Station who will.

The neighbouring Potentates could no longer avoid seeing the contemptible State, to which Danemarch and her King were now reduced. Each of them treated both with the utmost Contempt and Indignity. The Fear of Swedeland's making an other Invasion of Holstein, to which they had before found the Way, made the King and his Minister bear many Hardships and Insults from that Power ; who taking Advantage of this dastardly, pacific Temper, extended her Manufactures and her

Commerce, fortified her Ports, regardless of her Treaties with Danemarch, and inlarged her Navy, so as to become terrible to Danemarch ever since. Soon after which, the Danish Ships were searched, their Crews cruelly treated, and even their Flag insulted, on the open Seas, by the Russians and Dutch, without the Dane's daring to resent it. The injured People, indeed complained; but they were by various Artifices discouraged. Sometimes, the Minister pronounced them the Aggressor's, upon Presumption without Proofs, or rather upon Pretences to discourage Complaints. And when he was at length urged, by repeated popular Cries, to chastise the Injustice and Cruelty of Powers, now grown wanton in their Insolence to a Country, on which they once looked with Envy and Terror; he gave them this satisfactory Answer, ' that they must now bear their adverse Fortune as they may; for they had neither Money in their Treasury, a single Ally in Europe, nor any Means of obtaining either.' Whereupon, as the least of two Evils, and the only Solace now left, they were forced to Submit to these scandalous and destructive pacific Measures, to the End of this Reign, which happened in Holstein, in the Year 1648.

If you had Eyes and Attention, you might have already seen Distempers enough in the State of Danemarch, to change your Surprise at her Fall, within the Compass of four Days, in the next succeeding Reign, in to wondering, how amidst her manifold Corruptions, she could have so long subsisted! It is plain, the governing Part, the Crown entirely lost Sight of the Principles of the Institution of the Government, if he ever knew it; that he became regardless or ignorant of the Interests and Rights of the People, and forgetful of his solemn Engagements to them at his Coronation, and did not attend to the true Interests of his Crown and Family; or, to put the best Construction on

on his Conduct, that he suffered himself to be put into Leading-strings, like an Infant. The Prince, who in his political Capacity, has no Will, but that of his People ; deserves all Respect and Veneration. But, what can be so despicable, as a King, not only governing his Subjects, but governed himself, by the Will of his Servants ?— This was now the hapless Case of Danemarch and her King. No wonder, she soon after fell.

Some of the Few, that allow themselves to think, will naturally ask, were there no Means, of stopping the Progress of these Iniquitous and destructive Measures, attempted ? No warnings given the insensible People of this precipitate Declension of their State ?— There were many ; but all proved ineffectual.

The People were not altogether so abandoned, as not now and then to produce a Man, of Sense and Virtue enough in the Diet, to remonstrate against the Abuses in the Administration, and to point out the Dangers of their overturning the State. But all such Remonstrances were, by various concurring Circumstances, rendered fruitless.

In the first Place, the two contending Factions bore a mortal Enmity to each other, and from that Aversion, without any regard to Right, resolved to oppose each other continually. The Glims had reasons for distrusting and fearing the Glums. These were not only of principles directly opposite to those in political Sentiments ; but the most, if not all of them held religious Tenets, as destructive of the established Religion ; as their politics were subversive of the established Government. It was then natural for those to suspect these, and to oppose them sometimes, even where they might have happened to be in the Right.

Nothing could give a Minister greater Influence, than the violent and often unreasonable Contests of such Factions, when he had the cunning to play

each artfully against the other. Whilst each, blinded by it's irreconcileable Prejudices and Animosities to the other, saw not that they were both made Tools to serve the destructive Designs of a crafty Minister; nor would be perswaded, that their strugles were hastening the Ruin of their Country.

In the next Place, the Minister, at length, saw his Schemes in Danger of being laid open, consequently his Rule likely to come to an end; therefore, he was reduced to Expedients, which looked no further than the Present. He did not love his Master, nor could his Master love him. But their Interests were interwoven, so complicated, that neither could with safety think of separating them; and so judged it most prudent to let matters run on while they may, in the same Channel. The Minister found it necessary for his Security first to engage a Majority in his Interest in each Assembly of the Diet. Moreover, every Man, whether in or out of the Diet, that was able to speak or write with any Force, or even Plausibility against the Administration, was studied, his Passions discovered, and he was either engaged in the Service of the Minister, or silenced, by a Pension, a Place, a Present or a Title suitable to his Taste or Rank.

It is true, this may be considered as a Kind of Premium for Oratory. It certainly proved so; though such gifts were only intended as the Wages of Iniquity. However it must be confessed, that the Encouragement given, or the Necessity caused, during this Administration, which was continued upon the same Plan after this Minister's Death, raised more political Writers and Orators in Denmark, in two Reigns, than had been known in all the other Ages of the Government. But, this cost the Public by much too dear.

This matchless Minister lived to declare, and go near proving, that there was not an honest Man or a Patriot in the State. and brought so many of the

the first Rank, that assumed the Character and Name, to open Infamy and Disgrace; by corrupting them and perverting them to the very Reverse of what they had before professed; that the Public began to be persuaded of the Truth of his Assertion; so that Men who assumed these Appellations, in Time became suspected and often despised, even before their Integrity could be put to any Sort of Test. Thus Men were brought to lose that very Confidence in one another, which is one of the principal Bonds of Society. How should it then subsist?

By this Time, if I have been able to engage your Attention, I presume, you do not wonder so much at the seeming sudden Fall of Danemarch, as at her Subsisting so long as she did, when all Parts of the Administration had lost all Sense of Wisdom and Virtue, all regard to the Principles and Essentials of the Government, and every Man seemed to set up for himself, as it were in a Kind of Opposition to the Interest of the sinking Public.

But, to shew the unparalleled Excellence of the Danish Constitution; it bore a greater Weight of Corruption before it fell, than any Government of it's Time or perhaps any of all Antiquity. I shall not dispute with modern States, which may possibly appear to outdo the Antients in Schemes and Extent of Corruption, among other ingenious Inventions.

Politicans are agreed, that the Laws are the vivifying Spirit of every State. We have already shewn the Sources of these so polluted that nothing healthful was to be drawn from that Quarter.

But, though some salutary, some essential and fundamental Laws were either repealed or set aside, as the reigning, the absolute Minister directed; yet the Courts of Law were kept open, where Justice might yet seem to be administred. But even these became the common Sewers of Iniquity, such as were alone sufficient to overturn the State, had none other Cause concurred.

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The Laws of Danemarch, like it's political Constitution, were originally most wise and equal, plain, simple and concise. The primitive Judges of all Disputes between Man and Man, were Referees, two or more, of the Neighbours chosen by the Parties; and their Arbitration was final. If any Crime was committed, the Peace Officer of the Town or District, summoned the Inhabitants, and out of them, appointed, by drawing Lots, nine Men to try and adjudge the Fact. In Time, matters of Property became tried in the like Manner, when Parties could not agree upon Referees. And as Crimes and Disputes became in Process of Time more frequent and more complicated; Courts of Judicature were instituted, in which Men of the greatest Wisdom and Gravity and independant Fortunes were appointed to preside; for originally, no judicial or ministerial Officer in the State accepted any Pension; Salary or other Gratuity for his Services. When Virtue possessed Men's Hearts, the Pleasure of doing good, was deemed a sufficient Reward for any Trouble that might have attended the Act.

At long running, it was found necessary to establish different Courts for the greater Dispatch of Busines; and for the Ease of the Subject, a Number of Assessors, with a President of greater Knowledge and Experience, were established in the different Courts, instead of calling upon the Inhabitants at large.

The Presidents from their Reputation and Rank, by Degrees gained such an Influence on the Assessors, that their Opinions generally swayed the Assembly in each Court. Then, as a further Security for their Integrity and Care, certain Stipends were allotted, to make them perfectly independant.

Though the Presidents were originally appointed and paid by the Diet; as the People abated of their primitive Virtue, and the Kings by Degrees grasp-
ed

ed more Power; they became Officers of the Crown. This again was reformed in the Time of Frederick I. when they were restored nearly to the primitive Institution and Independency, as set forth in a former Letter.

The Laws being but few, and these most simple and plain, nothing was required in any of the Courts more than to make the Charge, set forth the Proofs, here the adverse Party, and then the Court debated the Matter, if it admitted of Controversy, and determined, in three Sittings at the most, the most complicate and perplexed Cause, that was brought before them.

But this Simplicity and Expedition in Procedure did not hold long. Honesty gave Place to Craft and Knavery; Men set up a new Trade of directing and pleading other Men's Causes; suits were introduced in doubtful Terms and ambiguous Forms, to which Right and Justice was in Time forced to give way. These Pleaders were to be hired, and the Suiter, that could hire the greatest Number, or the most cunning of these, was generally likely to carry his Cause. The Presidents and Assessors were now perplexed. Instead of adjudging a Cause the third Day after hearing both Parties; the Pleaders for their own Gain, for they were paid by the Turn in speaking, lengthened out the Time with Litigations of Words and Forms, confounding and perverting Evidence, and so at length overturning Truth that Suits were spun out to Years, and I might have said to Ages. It frequently happened if two Men went to Law for a Cow or an Horse, that the Beast died before the Suit was ended; or while the Property of a Ship or an Houte was disputed at Law, that the Premises went to Wreck and Ruin during the Suit, so as to be insufficient to pay the very Pleaders of the happy Man, that gained his Suit.

In short, Suits at Law were not determined sometimes in the third or fourth Generation; so that the Poor and Oppressed for whose Protection and Relief, the Laws and the Courts were instituted, were now deprived of their Benefit; as the Poor could never be able to support the exorbitant Expence and the Loss of Time now necessarily attending every simple Suit.

Every President now began to record the Histories and Procedures of the several Causes, that came before him, with the Judgements past upon them. Many of the Pleaders did the same. And thus the Journals of the different Courts were published, under the Sanction of each Court. And as the simple original Law, (being so plain, so concise and obvious, that it was thought that it could never be forgot, as it was founded on the great, eternal Rule of Right, written by Nature on every Man's Heart) was not committed to Writing, these Journals became so far established in the Place of Law and Right, that the lazy, perhaps corrupt Courts, in Time would not take the Pains to judge for themselves, but determined by Analogy to the Judgements recorded in these Journals. These were extremely voluminous, and the Statutes of the Diet to alter, correct, amend and explained them, were not less so. And as none of these were ever reduced to any Order or Method; the Study of the Law, as these were called, became most tedious and embarrassed and the proceedings in the Courts were still more so. The Requisites for a Pleader were only, a Capacity to read the vulgar Tongue, a Memory to retain, and some little Judgment to apply what he read, and a Front to gloss over Falsehood with the Appearance of Truth, which was ever to be put out of Countenance, by the confounding and abusing Evidence and a variety of shameful Stratagems.

It was not now wonderful to see the Judges themselves confounded by the Art and Multiplicity of Pleaders,

ders, and saying, the Cause was learnedly pleaded ; but they wished the Gentlemen would quote Precedents, without which they could not venture to determine.

These were Abuses unknown in Europe before this Time. The Pledgers became numerous, Suits were multiplied, the People were ruined and the greatest Fortunes were amassed by those of this new, pernicious Trade, the Law. As it was a profitable Profession, it must be deemed honourable in a corrupt State. Besides it was judged so necessary for Securing the Acquisitions or Possessions of every Family, that every one that was able, bred one Son a Pledger.

You can easily conceive what a Curse this new Trade must have become to the Danes. But, you must be at a loss to judge how it was possible it should have grown still worse: Contrary to the Rules of all other Trades, as the Dealers in this multiplied, their Trade increased, and their Prices rose to Excess. The Price of a Pledger, which in politer Times was called a Fee, increased in proportion to the Badness of the Cause. He that was conscious of the least Justice and Equity of his Side, not only gave the highest Fees, but engaged the greatest Number of Pledgers. The Expences of which rose at length so high, that it could never be worth a Man's while to attempt to sue for four or five Hundred Dollars ; as he could not even commence a Suit without laying out a greater Sum on his Pledgers. So that they were no longer Feed to serve their Clients, but bribed, and without a satisfactory Bribe, would they not plead.

You will naturally judge, Men thus practised in Fraud, and to whose polluted Hands the Wages of Prostitution were become thus familiar, not to say necessary ; could not have been good Members of Society. It was indeed impossible. You will not then wonder at the Corruption of the Diet, at their shameless Hardiness in Iniquity, at their tame Submission to

to every Scheme of Slavery ; when in Time, the leading Men among the Commonalty, and some, which by getting into holy Orders, crept into the Assembly of the Clergy, as well as several that were called from the Benches and lower Stations to the Order of the Nobles, were all taken from among the Pleders.

This horrible Evil must have been of Consequences bad enough to the Public, had it stopt here. But, alas ! It went still further. Not only all the Assessors but the Presidents of the several great Judicatures, were taken from among the Pleders. How they could distribute Justice is easily judged. And yet Means were found to tempt them to become still worse, more slavish and corrupt, if possible.

But, this Evil extended itself in various other Branches from the great Stock. Whoever had a Cause to come on, or apprehended an Attack from an other, must engage the prime Pleders by a Bribe before hand, whether he was really to have Occasion for them or not.

It has already been observed, that to secure the Independency and Freedom of the Presidents of the several great Judicatures, King Frederick the First was forced to grant them their Places during good Behaviour, with certain Stipends during their Service.

By this Means, it was designed to put these great Officers out of the Power of the Crown, that it may not be able to influence them in their Judgments. But the great Minister found Means of setting this wise Provision at nought. This he readily effected by giving them a Taste of Titles of Honour, of Pomp and Luxury ; which of Course made them necessitous, in Spight to the ample Provision made for their Subsistence, by the States. Presents from the Crown or it's Substitutes could not then possibly become unacceptable. But to give it a better Grace, Pensions equal to their former Sallaries were granted in Form. But, as these were only during the King's Pleasure, it must have made the Presidents, at least as dependent

dent as before. Happy Britain, where such bare-faced Iniquities are yet unknown!

Was it not now Time for this Nation to fall, never to rise again? Did ever Country so long Support, even the external Form and Name of a Free Government, when every Part of the Administration was so abandoned to Corruption and Infamy? No State antient or modern, was half so corrupt as Danemarch at her Fall. What is more astonishing than her subsisting, even in Name, thus long? Sure your untainted Polity must prove Immortal!

But however horrible and ghastly, the Complexion, Danemarch now wore, may appear; her Ministry took Care, there should be no Cause of Jealousy at Home, that all the exterior Parts of the Dominions should, if possible, be in all Respects worse.—How unlike the Measures of your wise and equal Rulers.

Every Abuse of the Law, every Vice and Abominations in it's Pleaders and Judges, were all transplanted into unhappy Nordweg. Suits were there, if possible, more tedious and more expensive, besides the Uncertainty of the Determination, from being Subject to an Appeal to the High Court in Danemarch. An Evil, which none of your happy Dominions can dread!

Moreover, that those, that had the Misfortune to become obnoxious to the Men in power may lye at the Mercy of their Prosecutors; the Privilege of being admitted to Bail, if not called to Trial the very first Opportunity; an antient Right, which the Laws secured alike to the Subjects of each Kingdom; was peremptorily denied to the Nordwegians. So that a miserable Man might have been kept in Goal there during his Life, if the Ministry thought fit. Nay more, the Judges of a Court in Nordweg have been known to receive, and to give order to their Officers to execute the Decrees or Orders of a Court in Danemarch, to bind the Nordwegians. And thus Matters were so far reversed as to make judicial Officers, ministerial; to say no worse. And no wonder:

der : For to secure this illicit and unnatural Subjection of the wretched Nordwegians, the President and most of the Assessors in every Court there, as well as this, were Danes of low Degree, sent there for such like Purposes ; and their Servility was by as unjust Measures secured : Instead of being established with an independent Stipend for Life or during good Behaviour ; these Officers in Nordweg, were in all Respects kept in mean Dependancy on their Master, the Minister, whose Creatures they were : For, their Places and Wages were granted only during Pleasure ; and when they failed or were suspected in their Servility ; they were superseded by the Appointment of others in their st. ad. Who dare say that any Part of your Dominions were ever thus accursed ?

Thus you see, that had Danemarch preserved her Freedom and Integrity at Home ; yet for her infamous Practices upon the poor People of Nordweg, whom she basely reduced to a most beggarly State first, and then, to abject Slavery ; she well deserved falling into that Abyss of Bondage and Misery, in which she will appear in the History of the next Reign ; which I shall draw, at my Leisure, in a very different light, from that in which it has been represented, by the shameless Flatterers, who wrote it during the Usurper's infamous Life.

But, why should I say Usurper ? Does it not demand a milder Appellation, when the King did nothing without the Consent of the Diet ? If a Man, who invades and possesses himself of the Rights of an other, be an Usurper ; that King of Danemarch, who compleated the Destruction of the Danish Government, in Name as well as Essence, must have been an Usurper ; yea, what is still worse, a perjured Tyrant, a Parricide. The Diet were only Confederates in his Iniquity : They had no Power to give into his Hands the Liberties of the People, to alter a Constitution, framed by the same Power that gave Diets Being, and made them Guardians and Trustees for a Government, established before Diets were instituted. The Diet neither had or could have had a

Power

Power to alter, much less to destroy, the original Constitution. And though the Diet were capable of acting contrary to Law ; the King cannot without a Breach of the Duty of his Office, without a Breach of his Oath, consent or assent to such fatal Infracti-
ons of the sacred Compact between him and his People, and between the Representatives and their Constituents. And supposing him under no Engage-
ment to the People ; his accepting from the Diet what they had no right to grant, was, if not a base Theft, the receiving of stolen Goods. Long live Britain, thoroughly great, fearless, as clear of, such Receivers, or such Thieves !

Let me ask, if any Spirit of Liberty had subsisted at this Time in Danemarch, would not the People have risen and sacrificed both King and Diet as the worst of Robbers ? Could this have been judged Murder in the Eyes of God or Man ? Would it not rather have immortalised such Avengers of public Wrongs ? Such preservers of the public Liberties ?

But, let us remember, that there was one power-
ful Apology left for the Conduct of the King. If he saw, that this People were quite devoid of Sense and Virtue ; that their Diet on which they had so long relied was only leading them to Destruction, by involving them in Debt, only to share the Booty ; that their Corruptions were daily increasing and bringing the State into general Contempt ; that the Government was reduced to Anarchy ; that the little were Slaves to the great, that should be their Protectors ; that these again were the Slaves of whosoever was able to purchase them, and that the Minister bribed them with the people's Money, without which they could not be wrought upon to any thing moved by the Court, whether wright or wrong ; in short, if the King saw, that the People had lost all Sense of those Principles, which alone intitled them to a free Government, and without which perfect political Freedom never did nor ever can exist ; had he not a Right to save himself and his Family from the im-
pending

pending Ruin? And was there any other Means left him, consistent with that Dignity, with which he was invested, than possessing himself of that Power, which the People by their Abuses and Corruptions had forfeited? All these might have been answered in the King's Favour, had he not fallen in with the iniquitous Measures of his Predecessors first, and then of his Ministers; all which had long tended to the induced Ruin. His not having employed military Force is no alleviation of his Crime: Had he had recourse to this, his Tyranny could by no other Means be supported, and must therefore remain precarious. He therefore chose the safest and most effectual Method. When the Minds of the People were diverted from their Duty, debased with Luxury and Effeminacy; when the Public was broken by a long Series of Corruption, and every Man was contented with having some Share of the Plunder; when they thus universally rejected those Virtues, which founded and which alone could support the State; they became an open Prey to every Tyrant, and the reigning King had as good a Right to their Vassallage as any other. He therefore secured to himself that Despotism, under which, all Nations void of Sense and Virtue, must of Necessity sooner or later fall. Some, it is true, have fallen before they lost their Virtue, by some external, unsurmountable Force. But such a Conquest seldom lasted longer than the Conqueror held superior Force to the Conquered. But, Liberty has never been known long to survive the Loss of Virtue; nor, without the one, can the other ever hope to be regained. See then, which is the most permanent Tyranny. But of this more at large, when we come to give a particular Detail of the utter Subversion of the Liberties of Danemarch in the next Reign. This, I purpose to do, at my Leisure, in a fuller manner, than was attempted by Mr. Moleseworth; who looked no further back than the Date of the Catastrophe, and consequently, saw none of the antecedent Causes. Till then farewell!

YOURS, &c.

End of PART I.

